CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

THURSDAY ▸ APRIL 23, 2026 ▸ VOL: 11 ▸ ISSUE: 278 ▸ PAGES 12 ▸ ₹2.00

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THE BLOODSTAINS THAT CAN NEVER BE ERASED!

April 22, 2025 was a day when terror crossed a line that should never exist in any civilised society.

The entire country was shaken from within when 26 innocent civilians, 25 tourists and a local ponywallah, were killed in cold blood by terrorists in the serene meadows of Baisaran near Pahalgam, a place known for beauty and tourism in the Kashmir valley.

Three hevily-armed terrorists belonging to Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) walked into a crowd of unarmed tourists at Pahalgam and turned it into a killing field.

On the anniversary of the horrific terror attack, the country paid heartfelt tribute to the victims, honoring their memory with solemn ceremonies and nationwide remembrance. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the nation in honoring the lives lost.

In a moving tribute, Modi declared that India would never be intimidated by violence and remains fully committed to defeating those who spread hate. The attack was one of the deadliest on Indian civilians since 2008.

How was the first anniversary marked?

Authorities unveiled a black marble memorial along the Lidder River on April 22, bearing the names of all 26 victims, as political leaders, civil society, and victim families gathered under heightened security.

How did India hit back?

On May 7, 2025, India had launched 'Operation Sindoor', a coordinated, multi-service precision strike targeting nine terror launchpads in Pakistan and PoJK, which razed the sites in approximately 22-25 minutes. Next, 'Operation Mahadev' eliminated all three main perpetrators of the terror attack in a joint security forces operation at Dachigam in July 2025. The NIA filed a chargesheet in December 2025 against seven accused including Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba operatives. India also 'suspended' the Indus Waters Treaty, closed border crossings, and expelled Pakistani diplomats.

Is Pahalgam safe enough to visit now?

Security has been structurally overhauled - intensified patrolling, Army presence on trekking routes, and the new QR accountability layer. Baisaran Valley is seeing visitors return. What no checkpoint can fully restore is confidence, and only an unbroken run of peaceful seasons will do that.

What is QR code system?

Authorities introduced a QR code-based identification system in April 2026 covering all tourism service providers - pony operators, photographers, hawkers, and vendors. Each provider will undergo police verification and receives a unique code containing their name, Aadhaar linkage, registration number, and background check status. According to officials, the system aims to cover approximately 25,000 individuals, with over 7,000 codes already issued. Tourists can scan and verify instantly via smartphone.

'Determined to defeat all forms of terrorism'

I pay heartfelt tribute to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack. Such acts of terror cannot deter our unwavering commitment to peace and unity. We remain resolute in our determination to defeat terrorism everywhere in all its forms.

Droupadi Murmu, President

'Memory still shakes our heart'

The memory of those innocent lives brutally snatched away still shakes our hearts today. The entire nation stood united against terrorism and violence then, stands united now, and will always remain so.d

Rahul Gandhi, MP

'India vows never to bow before terror'

Remembering the innocent lives lost in the gruesome Pahalgam terror attack on this day last year. They will never be forgotten. As a nation, we stand united in grief and resolve. India will never bow to any form of terror. The heinous designs of terrorists will never succeed.

Narendra Modi, PM

ISLAMABAD IN LIMBO

Ceasefire talks in doubt as Iran hesitates and US delays trip

ISLAMABAD

The diplomatic corridors of Pakistan's capital were thick with anticipation and growing unease on Wednesday as the second round of high-stakes peace talks between the US and Iran remained in a precarious limbo.

With a critical truce set expired at 4:50 AM PST on Wednesday, Islamabad found itself racing against a ticking clock to prevent a return to active hostilities.

The city, which has undergone a "dazzling reinvention" as a neutral mediator in the 2026 conflict, was all set to host the delegations. However, the planned arrival of US Vice President JD Vance was abruptly put on hold by the White House late Tuesday.

This move followed a series of maritime escalations, including the US seizure of the Iranian-flagged cargo ship 'Touska' in the Sea of Oman, an act Tehran has branded as "piracy" and a flagrant breach of the existing truce

Ceasefire extension

While US President Donald Trump announced an indefinite extension of the ceasefire on Tuesday night, the gesture has been met with deep scepticism in Tehran.

'Extension a ploy to buy time'

Iranian officials, including advisors to top negotiator Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, have dismissed the extension as a "ploy to buy time" for a surprise military strike. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi further complicated the diplomatic path, stating that Iran would not negotiate "under the shadow of threats" while its ports remain under a US naval blockade.

Truce a dire need for Pak

For Pakistan, the stakes could not be higher as a nation sharing a 900-km border with Iran and grappling with an acute domestic energy crisis exacerbated by the Hormuz blockade, stability is a mechanical necessity. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has engaged in relentless shuttle diplomacy, framing Islamabad as the only bridge capable of housing both Washington's demands and Tehran's "strategic familiarity".

US-Iran talks in next 3 days: Trump

WASHINGTON: A second round of US-Iran talks could take place within the next three days, the New York Post reported Wednesday, citing unnamed Pakistani sources and President Donald Trump. "It's possible!" Trump reportedly told the Post by text message, when asked about sources in Pakistan -- which mediated the first round of talks -- saying that a second round was "expected in Islamabad within the next 36 to 72 hours."

Iran's preconditions for dialogue

TEHRAN: Iran has demanded the lifting of the US naval blockade and the release of the Touska and its crew before talks can proceed. Iranian leaders reject negotiations 'under the shadow of threats' and accuse Washington of turning diplomacy into a 'table of surrender.' The US maintains the blockade will stay until a deal is reached, accusing Iran of its own ceasefire violations in the Strait of Hormuz.

Gujarat-bound ship among 3 attacked by Iran in Hormuz

NEW DELHI: Three cargo ships were reportedly attacked at the the Strait of Hormuz even after US President Donald Trump extended the fragile ceasefire till the peace talks conclude. As per reports, Iran's Revolutionary Guard Navy seized two of the vessels shortly after the attack. Some reports also suggested that one of the two vessels seized was a Gujarat-bound cargo ship. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) reported that a cargo ship was targeted in an attack while it was exiting the Strait of Hormuz, approximately 8 nautical miles west of the Iranian coast. As per initial reports, the vessel came to a halt after the shots were fired. No further details have emerged about the extent of the damage, the exact identity of the ship, or its current status.

SSLC RESULTS TO BE OUT TODAY

Karnataka SSLC Result 2026

BENGALURU

The SSLC (Class 10) examination-1 results will be announced on Thursday noon, said Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa.

The declaration will take place at the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board office.

Students can access their results afternoon on ***https://karresults.nic.in*** and via the **KarnatakaOne** mobile app. For the first time, marksheets will also be available on DigiLocker.

The minister said the High Court order on awarding marks for the third language will be followed.

Exams were held from March 18 to April 2, with 8,65,988 students registered.

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka

Bengaluru City Corporations
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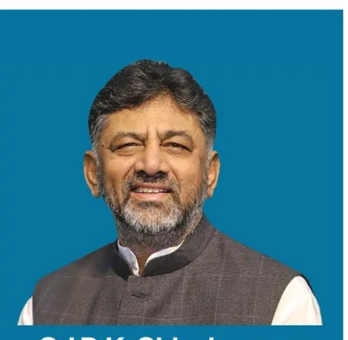

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka

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Former AP CM Nadendla Bhaskara Rao dies at 90

HYDERABAD

Nadendla Bhaskar Rao, the former chief minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh who famously staged a political coup against Telugu Desam Party (TDP) founder NT Rama Rao (NTR), passed away at a private hospital in Hyderabad on Wednesday due to age-related illness. He was 90.

Rao remains a pivotal and controversial figure in South Indian politics due to the events of August 1984, often referred to as the "August Coup" or "August Crisis".

At the time, he was serving as a trusted Finance Minister in NTR's cabinet. When NTR traveled to the US for heart surgery, Rao, with the alleged support of the Congress, claimed the support of a majority of legislators. He was sworn in as CM on August 16, 1984, effectively staging a coup against his party chief.

The coup triggered massive political turmoil. NTR returned from the US, launched a statewide "Dharma Yuddham" and a "Save Democracy" movement. Within 31 days, the Central government intervened, the governor was recalled, and NTR was reinstated as CM on Sept 16, 1984.

Born in Guntur on June 23, 1935, Rao was a lawyer by profession. He began his political career with the INC winning the Vijayawada East constituency in 1978. He was a key figure in the founding of the TDP in 1982.

His last rites will be held at Punjagutta of Hyderabad at 4 pm on Thursday.

QUICK READ

Double-Decker Flyover Opens on Trial, Eases Silk Board Traffic Woes

BENGALURU

Bengaluru's first double-decker flyover has been opened for vehicular movement on a trial basis, offering relief at the congested Central Silk Board junction. The stretch connects HSR Layout 5th Main to Jayanagar (Ragigudda) along the Outer Ring Road. The South East Traffic Police announced that vehicles have been allowed on the flyover after confirming readiness earlier this month. The project, partially opened in July 2024, faced multiple delays before full completion.Built at a cost of Rs 449 crore by BMRCL, the 5.25-km structure integrates road and metro infrastructure. Officials said the flyover will enable signal-free movement and is expected to reduce travel time by over 30 percent. The project is aimed at decongesting one of the city's busiest junctions, linking Hosur Road .

CM dismisses 'jinx' myth, says visits strengthen leadership

BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has dismissed the long-standing belief that visiting Chamarajanagara district brings political misfortune, asserting that such visits have instead strengthened his position. Speaking at Gundlupet helipad, he said he does not believe in superstitions and has frequently toured the district. "Every visit to Chamarajanagar has only made my position stronger," he remarked. His statement comes amid political speculation and internal tensions, and is seen as a clear message to critics, projecting confidence and authority in the face of challenges.

1 yr after Pahalgam attack, family remembers Bhushan with grief

Pain lingers despite retaliation, families still struggle with loss daily

BENGALURU

A year after the devastating terrorist attack in Pahalgam, the family of Bharat Bhushan in Bengaluru continues to grapple with an irreplaceable loss, their lives marked by silence, grief and unanswered questions.

The attack, which took place in Baisaran Valley, claimed 26 lives, including 25 tourists and a local resident. Though India responded with 'Operation Sindhoor', the emotional scars remain raw for families like that of Bharat Bhushan, a resident of Mattikere, who was among those killed.

Bhushan had travelled to Kashmir with his wife, Dr Sujatha, and their young child, hoping for a peaceful vacation. Instead, tragedy struck when terrorists opened fire, killing him instantly with a gunshot to the head. Today, his home stands as a reminder of shattered dreams, with his elderly parents and wife struggling to come to terms with the loss.

His parents, overwhelmed by grief, recall a son who had countless aspirations for the future. "He had so many dreams. Everything ended in a moment," a family member said, reflecting the deep void left behind.

Dr Sujatha, trying to rebuild her life through work, admits that time has done little to ease the pain. "I don't even feel like a year has passed. Every moment, every day, I remember him," she said. Despite her efforts to move forward, memories of that fateful day continue to haunt her.

Recounting the incident, she spoke of the shock and fear that engulfed them. "We went there believing it was safe. They looked like tourists, like ordinary people. Suddenly, they pulled out guns and started shooting," she said, her voice filled with anguish.

She also expressed concerns over safety for tourists, urging authorities to ensure stronger security measures. "No one should have to die like this. People go on trips trusting the system. That trust should not be broken," she added.The tragedy has not only robbed the family of a loved one but also shattered their sense of security. As the nation remembers the victims, for Bhushan's family, the pain remains as intense as ever—an enduring reminder of a life lost too soon.

Tanker demand surges as water crisis intensifies

BWSSB reports sharp spike in demand amid falling groundwater levels

BENGALURU

Bengaluru is witnessing a sharp escalation in water scarcity, with tanker demand rising significantly as borewells across several neighbourhoods run dry, forcing residents and businesses to depend heavily on alternative supply systems.

Officials from the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) said demand for tanker water has increased by 20–25 per cent in recent weeks, reflecting rapid depletion of groundwater reserves. The board's 'Sanchari Cauvery' tanker service, initially introduced to regulate private tanker operators, has now become a crucial lifeline for thousands of households.Data from BWSSB reveals that in the last two months alone, the board generated nearly Rs 1.2 crore in revenue through tanker supply. In the first quarter of 2026, 15,731 tanker orders were fulfilled, bringing in Rs 1.7 crore—significantly higher than the 11,681 orders and Rs 1.2 crore recorded between October and December 2025.A 2025 groundwater assessment has categorised Bengaluru among cities facing excessive extraction, with nearly 308.4 million cubic metres of groundwater being drawn annually. A study by the Indian Institute of Science has further flagged declining groundwater levels in at least 65 wards, underscoring the scale of the crisis.Apartments and industries are among the worst affected. Of the total tanker orders fulfilled this year, 5,819 were bulk requests from these sectors, contributing Rs 70.9 lakh in revenue.

This trend highlights the growing dependence of even large establishments on tanker supply due to unreliable groundwater sources.The number of users registering for BWSSB's tanker service has also surged. Since its launch in May 2025, 14,419 customers have enrolled, with 3,810 registrations recorded between January and early April this year—more than double the previous quarter's figures.BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath Manohar acknowledged the mounting pressure on the city's water infrastructure but assured that efforts are underway to meet demand. Over 220 tankers have been deployed, supported by more than 90 filling stations to ensure supply during peak summer.

BWSSB is also strengthening recharge measures and improving distribution efficiency to reduce long-term dependence on tanker supply. Since the launch of the Sanchari Cauvery initiative, 45,448 orders have been fulfilled, generating Rs 4.7 crore in revenue, including Rs 2.5 crore from online bookings and Rs 2.2 crore from bulk consumers.

Director duped of ₹74k in fake reward points scam

BENGALURU

A 56-year-old company director from Banashankari I Stage fell victim to an online fraud after being lured by a fake "last day" offer to redeem bank reward points, losing nearly Rs 74,000.

According to police, the victim, who runs a private electrical firm, received a call and message from an unlisted number around 6 pm on April 15. The message contained a suspicious link in the form of an APK file, urging him to select a gift and pay a nominal service fee of Rs 34 to claim the reward.

Believing the message to be genuine, the complainant clicked the link and completed the payment using his credit card.

Within minutes, he received an alert that Rs 73,889 had been debited from his account without authorisation.

Stolen Nepalese antiquity traced after seizure at Bengaluru airport

BENGALURU

A routine customs interception at Bengaluru airport has led to the discovery of a rare ninth-century antiquity stolen from Nepal, highlighting the growing vigilance against illicit trafficking of cultural artefacts.

The case began in November last year when officials from the Air Cargo Commissionerate flagged a consignment declared as a "grey stone stele of Padmapani." The shipment had arrived from Vienna, Austria, and was brought in by a 32-year-old traveller arriving from the United Kingdom, who claimed it had been purchased at an auction.

However, authorities grew suspicious during inspection, noting the sculpture's intricate craftsmanship and distinctive features that suggested it was more than a decorative object. The artefact was subsequently referred to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for expert evaluation.

After detailed examination, ASI confirmed that the sculpture dated back to the ninth century and bore characteristics consistent with early medieval Himalayan iconography.

The findings raised strong concerns about its origin and authenticity as a legally traded item.Further investigation linked the stele to archival records of a stolen artefact from Nepal.

The identification was reinforced by reports in Nepalese media documenting the theft of a similar Padmapani sculpture. Following this, Indian authorities coordinated with the Ministry of External Affairs, which formally engaged with the Nepal government.Officials in Nepal confirmed that the seized sculpture was indeed a stolen cultural property, paving the way for potential repatriation procedures.

Senior customs officials stated that the artefact remains in their custody as legal formalities continue.

The case underscores the importance of international cooperation in curbing the illegal trade of antiquities and preserving cultural heritage.

Authorities reiterated that stricter scrutiny at entry points and collaboration with global agencies are crucial to prevent smuggling networks from exploiting gaps in the system.

Excise Reform Report Released, Public Feedback Invited Till May 22

BENGALURU

The Resource Mobilization Committee (RMC), constituted by the Karnataka government to review the state's alcohol excise taxation system, has submitted its report recommending major reforms in the sector.

The report proposes a shift towards a public health-oriented taxation model based on alcohol content, aiming to balance revenue generation with health considerations. It also outlines a calibrated roadmap for implementation, supported by technology-driven regulatory measures to improve transparency and efficiency.

The Finance Department has placed the report in the public domain on its official website, inviting feedback from stakeholders. Industry representatives, public health experts, academic institutions, civil society organisations, and citizens have been encouraged to review the recommendations and share their inputs.

Stakeholders can submit their comments via email before 5.30 pm on May 22, 2026.

Officials said the consultation process is aimed at ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive policy framework before final decisions are taken on excise reforms in the state.

Seven sentenced to 7 years grenade-ammunition case

BENGALURU

A special court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has sentenced seven accused, including key conspirator T Nazeer, to seven years of rigorous imprisonment in connection with a 2023 grenade and ammunition recovery case in Bengaluru.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 48,000 on each of the convicted individuals. The case dates back to 2023, when Bengaluru City Police recovered four live grenades, a pistol, and ammunition from a house in RT Nagar. Acting on specific intelligence, police had also seized explosive materials, walkie-talkies, and maps, prompting the NIA to take over the investigation.

According to the probe agency, the accused had allegedly conspired to carry out blasts at multiple locations across the city.

CM Siddaramaiah flags off supply of Karnataka coir products to Delhi

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday flagged off a consignment of coir products from Karnataka to Delhi at his official residence, 'Kaveri'. The initiative aims to promote eco-friendly products made by rural artisans and expand market reach beyond the state.

The Karnataka State Coir Development Corporation has prepared around 8,000 coir mats, primarily manufactured by rural women, for supply to the national capital. Chairman Nataraj Janakiram and other dignitaries, including Ravi Bosaraju, were present at the event.

One of the most popular products is the "Dutch Mat", made from coconut husk fibre. The name dates back to the 18th century when Dutch traders exported such mats from India and Sri Lanka to Europe. The manufacturing process involves collecting coconut husk, softening it, soaking it in water, extracting fibres, spinning yarn, dyeing, and weaving the mats manually using frames.Officials said the corporation operates 35 production units and is creating employment for nearly 700 rural workers, in line with the government's focus on strengthening cottage industries.To boost sales, the corporation has launched digital platforms and partnered with private agencies for e-commerce expansion. Coir products are also being displayed in retail outlets across multiple states. Authorities said these eco-friendly and durable products are gaining popularity nationwide and urged consumers to support locally made goods.

Nursing student accuses college chairman of sexual harassment

BENGALURU

A 21-year-old nursing student has accused the chairman of a private college in Bengaluru of sexual harassment and intimidation, triggering a police investigation into the allegations and counter-claims.The student filed a complaint at Bagalagunte police station on April 19, alleging that the chairman made derogatory and deeply personal remarks, including comparisons to his former girlfriend. She further claimed that he threatened to fail her in examinations if she did not comply with his demands.According to her statement, the alleged harassment began in August 2025 and created a hostile environment that affected her mental well-being and academic performance. The student, a resident of Thammenahalli staying in the college hostel.

OVERWHELMING SOCIAL CONCERN

Bengaluru 10K marathon raises over Rs 5 crore for social causes

BENGALURU

Bengaluru's flagship TCS World 10K has once again demonstrated the city's strong spirit of giving, raising over Rs 5 crore ahead of this year's run scheduled for April 26, benefiting nearly 100 non-governmental organisations.

Under the theme Overwhelming social concern, the marathon has mobilised support across sectors including healthcare, education, sports, and animal welfare. Leading the fundraising leaderboard is GoSports Foundation with Rs 81.9 lakh, followed by United Way Bengaluru and Right To Live, each raising over Rs 38 lakh.

In healthcare, the Neonates Foundation of India (Rs 33.6 lakh) and Bangalore Kidney Foundation (Rs 29.5 lakh) have emerged as top beneficiaries. In the education sector, Child Rights and You (CRY) leads with Rs 23.1 lakh, followed by Reaching Hand and Gubbachi.

Corporate participation has also been significant, with ASM Technologies raising Rs 74.1 lakh in support of GoSports. Other contributors include OpenText and AtkinsRéalis. Among running communities, JJ Runners stood out by raising Rs 6.5 lakh for multiple causes.Individual fundraisers have played a crucial role. Usha Baliga topped the list by raising Rs 29 lakh for the Bangalore Kidney Foundation. Reflecting on the growth of the initiative, she said fundraising has evolved from just a handful of participants in 2009 to more than 250 individuals this year. Young participants have also made an impact. Eleven-year-old Siddharth raised over Rs 1 lakh to support animal welfare through Charlie Animal Rescue Centre. Meanwhile, visually impaired fundraiser Idiculla Markose contributed towards elderly care through the Samara Foundation, highlighting the importance of supporting an ageing population.The marathon continues to serve as a powerful platform that blends fitness with philanthropy, uniting citizens, corporates, and institutions in addressing pressing social issues while reinforcing Bengaluru's reputation as a hub of community-driven initiatives.

QUICK READ

Lightning strike claims life of woman farmer

Raichur

A 40-year-old woman farmer, identified as Duragamma Sabanna Golapalli from Yarajanti village in Lingasugur taluk, lost her life after being struck by lightning during heavy rain in Raichur district. The incident occurred around 7:30 pm near Basavana Bagadi Doddi when she had stepped out during rainfall to secure a tarpaulin. Officials said lightning struck her on the spot, resulting in instant death. The case has been registered at Hatti Police Station, and further procedures are underway. Locals expressed grief over the tragedy, noting the risks farmers face during sudden weather changes and thunderstorms in the region.

Kharge calls for unity, vigilance after Pahalgam attack

Bidar

AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge responded to questions on the Pulwama Attack while speaking to media in Bhalki, Bidar district. He said the tragedy should not have happened but acknowledged that Indian armed forces have taken appropriate action. He stressed national unity and strong measures against terrorism, saying India will not remain silent if innocents are targeted. He also said such incidents must not occur at tourist destinations, highlighting public safety concerns. On Karnataka cabinet reshuffle, he said it is for Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to decide. He declined further comment on his earlier remarks on terrorism. The remarks were made during his visit to Bhalki public event. He urged unity.

Vijayapura to celebrate Dr Rajkumar birth anniversary

Vijayapura

Vijayapura will celebrate the birth anniversary of legendary actor Dr. Rajkumar with a special song rendition programme on April 24 at Kandagal Sri Hanumantharaya Rangamandir from 9 AM. The event is organised by the district administration in association with the Information and Public Relations Department and Kannada and Culture Department. District in-charge minister M. B. Patil will inaugurate it, while MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal will preside. Ministers, MPs including Ramesh Jigajinagi and Sudha Murty, and other leaders will attend. Special lectures will be delivered by journalists Ashok Yadalli and Parasuram Bhasagi. The programme will feature popular songs of Dr. Rajkumar and invites public participation with prior registration for all citizens.

Governor urges innovation and social responsibility among students

Governor stresses innovation, continuous learning, and social responsibility while addressing graduates at Karnataka Central University convocation in Kalaburagi.

KALABURAGI

At the convocation ceremony of Karnataka Central University in Kalaburagi, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot called upon students to embrace continuous learning, innovation, and social responsibility in a rapidly evolving technological era.Addressing the graduating students in the presence of Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan, he stressed that education should not be limited to personal advancement but must contribute to the progress and upliftment of society and the nation.He highlighted India's growing global stature and described the youth as the country's greatest strength in building a self-reliant future. He urged graduates to uphold values of excellence, integrity, and service in their professional and personal lives.

The Governor also emphasised the importance of quality education, research, and innovation in national development. Referring to the National Education Policy 2020, he underscored the need for multidisciplinary learning and skill development to prepare students for future challenges.

He further spoke about environmental responsibility, stating that conservation must go hand in hand with development. He encouraged students to adopt sustainable practices and remain sensitive to ecological concerns. Quoting the Bhagavad Gita, he reminded students to focus on performing their duties sincerely without attachment to outcomes, reinforcing the importance of discipline and purpose in life. University officials, including Vice Chancellor Prof. Battu Satyanarayana, were present at the event, which marked an important milestone for graduating students as they prepared to enter professional and academic careers.

CPI(ML) marks 7th foundation day in Raichur

RAICHUR

The 57th foundation day of CPI(ML) Liberation was observed in Raichur, with party leaders calling for a united struggle against imperialism and global conflicts during a gathering at Channadasar Bhavan.Addressing the event, party taluk secretary Aziz Jagirdar alleged that global instability and wars are being driven by imperialist policies, particularly those of the United States. He said such developments are contributing to political interference, unrest, and instability across several regions, stressing the need for collective efforts to promote global peace.Referring to tensions involving Iran, Israel, and the United States, he claimed the conflict has wide geopolitical implications, including concerns over energy security.

Mallikarjun Kharge urges unity, social reform, and equality while invoking Basavanna and Ambedkar at Bhalki event.

KHARGE URGES UNITY, REFORM AT PATTADEVAR EVENT

KALABURAGI

At the Amrita Mahotsava of Dr. Basavalinga Pattadevar in Bhalki, AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge delivered a strong message calling for social unity, reform, and the practical adoption of egalitarian values in daily life.

Kharge stressed that the teachings of Basavanna and the constitutional ideals of B. R. Ambedkar should not remain confined to speeches or ceremonies but must be actively implemented in society. He said that real progress is possible only when principles are translated into action.

He noted the influential role of spiritual and religious leaders such as Jangamas, Swamijis, and Mathadhipatis in shaping public consciousness. However, he cautioned that divisions within any religion weaken its strength and slow its growth, stressing the importance of unity and inclusiveness.Drawing from history, Kharge observed that many religions and philosophies began modestly but expanded due to acceptance and collective strength. He referred to the global spread of Buddhism and said that internal fragmentation can limit the influence of even the most profound ideas.He also invoked the contributions of reformers like Narayana Guru and Kabir, who advocated for equality and humanity beyond caste and religious boundaries.Kharge briefly commented on media interpretation of his statements, suggesting that public messaging is often portrayed differently than intended.Concluding his address, he emphasised a human-centric philosophy, stating that religion exists for the upliftment of human beings and not for division. He urged people to strengthen shared values of compassion, equality, and social justice to build a more unified society.

Protest in Jevargi demands CID probe minor deaths

KALABURAGI

Protests erupt in Jevargi demanding CID probe into suspicious deaths of two minor Dalit sisters found in a well under mysterious circumstances.

Tension prevailed in Jevargi after members of the Bovi and Vaddar communities staged a mass protest demanding a CID investigation into the suspicious death of two minor Dalit sisters found in a well near Ijeri village in the taluk.

The bodies of the two girls were reportedly discovered under highly suspicious circumstances, with allegations that their hands were tied, raising serious doubts and intensifying public outrage over the incident.

Protesters carried out a rally from Reliance Pump to the Mini Vidhana Soudha and submitted a memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister through the Tahsildar, seeking a transfer of the case to the Crime Investigation Department (CID) for an impartial and thorough probe.

Activist Ravichandra Guttedar, speaking during the protest, said the case cannot be treated as a routine death and insisted that only a CID-level investigation can uncover the truth behind the incident. He also demanded compensation of ₹25 lakh for each of the victims' families.

A case of suspicious death has already been registered at Jevargi Police Station, and local police have begun investigation into the circumstances surrounding the deaths.

The incident has sparked wider concerns about the safety of women and minor girls in rural areas, with community members and activists calling for stronger protective measures and faster justice delivery.Several local leaders and representatives from community organisations participated in the protest, reflecting growing public pressure on authorities to ensure a transparent investigation and accountability in the case.

Kalaburagi to celebrate Dr. Rajkumar birth anniversary

KALABURAGI

The district administration in Kalaburagi has announced plans to celebrate the 97th birth anniversary of legendary actor Dr. Rajkumar on April 24 at a district-level event organised in coordination with the Department of Information and Public Relations.The celebrations will be held at Suvarna Bhavan in Kannada Bhavan at 10 AM and will include floral tributes to Dr. Rajkumar's portrait, followed by a musical programme featuring songs from his films that highlight his cultural and social impact on Kannada cinema and society.

A preparatory meeting chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Rayappa Hunnasagi finalised arrangements for the event. Officials have been instructed to invite the district in-charge minister, elected representatives, writers, and cultural organisations to ensure wide participation.

Given the expected large turnout of fans, literary figures, and Kannada organisations, authorities have emphasised arrangements for seating, drinking water, sanitation, and smooth crowd management. The police department has been tasked with ensuring adequate security, while uninterrupted power supply has also been prioritised.Departments including Police, Education, Kannada and Culture, Horticulture, GESCOM, and the City Corporation are coordinating to ensure the event proceeds smoothly.Representatives of Kannada Sahitya Parishat and Dr. Rajkumar Fans Association highlighted that his films carry strong moral and life values beyond entertainment. They also renewed long-standing demands for installing a statue of Dr. Rajkumar in the city, naming a road after him, and instituting an award in his honour.The event is expected to serve as a cultural tribute celebrating Dr. Rajkumar's enduring legacy in Kannada cinema and public life.

Basava Jayanti procession held in Surpur town

SURPUR

The 893rd birth anniversary of Basavanna was celebrated with great devotion and grandeur in Surpur, featuring a large procession, religious rituals, and cultural programmes attended by hundreds of devotees.The celebrations were organised by Panchanga Math, beginning in the morning with special pooja and Rudrabhishek performed by Siddayya Swami. On the occasion, Raja Lakshminarayana Nayak of the Surpur royal family hoisted the Shatsthala flag, marking the formal commencement of the festivities.

Farmers demand permanent fix for Doni silt issue

VIJAYAPUR

Farmers in Vijayapura have demanded a permanent solution to the recurring siltation problem in the Doni River, warning that temporary desilting efforts are failing to address the core issue of reduced water-carrying capacity and repeated flooding. The demand was raised by Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and

Hasiru Sene district president Sangamesh Sagar, who said that despite Vijayapura being known as the "district of five rivers," it continues to face drought-like conditions every two to three years, severely affecting farmers.He alleged that current desilting work is being done only as a formality, without properly clearing the main flow path of the river. According to him, improper execution has left the underlying problem unresolved, leading to both floods during monsoon and water scarcity later.The Doni River, which flows approximately 215 km from Maharashtra through Karnataka into Andhra Pradesh, has seen heavy silt accumulation over the years. This has significantly reduced its capacity, causing overflow into agricultural fields during rains and damaging crops across large areas.

Kalaburagi BJP blames Congress over Women's Reservation Bill

KALABURAGI

Kalaburagi Rural MLA Basavaraj Mattimadu accused the Congress of being responsible for the failure of the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament, intensifying political sparring over the stalled legislation.Addressing a press conference, Mattimadu alleged that the Indian National Congress obstructed the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam), claiming it failed to secure the required two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha during voting. He termed it a "conspiracy" that prevented the bill from moving forward.He further argued that the setback has also impacted the broader process of constituency delimitation and accused Congress of historically delaying women's political empowerment. According to him, the party has consistently opposed or slowed down initiatives aimed at enhancing women's representation in governance. BJP spokesperson Dr. Sudha Halakai also criticised the Congress, stating that it was obstructing the Union government's efforts to ensure greater representation for women in legislative bodies. She alleged that the opposition party has repeatedly violated constitutional values and acted against democratic principles.

SHAHABAD RAIN HEAT RELIEF

Light rain cools Shahabad after intense heatwave

SHAHABAD

Residents of Shahabad experienced much-needed relief after a spell of light rain accompanied by thunder and lightning brought down the intense heat that had gripped the region for several days.

For the past week, Shahabad had been reeling under severe summer conditions, with temperatures hovering around 44°C. The persistent heatwave made it extremely difficult for residents to step outdoors during the daytime, with many restricting movement to early

mornings and evenings.The sudden rainfall brought a noticeable change in weather conditions, cooling the atmosphere and providing immediate comfort to people across the town. Rain was reported in several localities, along with gusty winds that briefly disrupted normal outdoor activities. In some areas, loose items kept on terraces were scattered due to the strong winds, though no significant damage or casualties were reported. Following the rain, cloudy skies continued to dominate the region, raising expectations of additional showers in the coming hours. The drop in temperature created a pleasant environment, offering temporary relief from the prolonged spell of scorching heat.Residents were seen stepping out to enjoy the drizzle, with children and women moving around with umbrellas, reflecting the visible change in mood after days of discomfort. The rainfall brought a sense of relief and improved overall livability conditions, even if for a short duration.Weather conditions suggest the possibility of intermittent rain in the region, which may continue to ease the prevailing heatwave. Locals have welcomed the change, expressing hope for further showers to sustain cooler conditions in the coming days.

QUICK READ

Sankanal villagers protest over water shortage

KANAKAGIRI

Villagers of Sankanal village in Kanakagiri taluk protested against District In-charge Minister Shivaraj Thangadgi during a foundation stone laying event at Navali Gram Panchayat limits. Women stopped his vehicle holding empty pots and demanded immediate solution to the drinking water shortage. The village has over a hundred houses facing severe water scarcity for a long time. Residents raised slogans seeking permanent water supply arrangements. Officials present tried to calm the situation. The protest highlighted growing anger over basic amenities in rural areas. Authorities said they will review the drinking water issue and take necessary steps soon.

Woman marries husband's friend

MANDYA

Police in Mandya reported that a woman, who had a love marriage two years ago, has allegedly left her husband and married his friend. The couple, originally from Bannangadi in Pandavapura taluk, had been in a relationship before their marriage. It is also alleged that she left home with gold jewellery weighing 22 grams and one lakh rupees. Police said a complaint has been filed by the husband seeking action and return of the valuables. Further investigation is underway and officials are verifying the circumstances of the relationship and financial allegations. Locals expressed shock over the incident in the village.

Farmers invited for mango fair registration

KOPPAL

The Horticulture Department in Koppal has announced the 10th Annual Mango Exhibition and Sales Fair for 2026–27. Officials said mango growers who wish to participate must register their names in advance. The fair is planned for the second week of May to help farmers sell naturally ripened mangoes directly to consumers without middlemen. It also aims to offer fresh fruits at reasonable prices to the public. Priority will be given on a first-come basis. Farmers must submit land records, crop details, and personal information to reserve stalls. For more details, contact numbers of horticulture offices in Koppal and nearby taluks have been shared by officials.

MP exposes illegal iron ore transport scam

MP E. Tukaram flagged alleged illegal iron ore transport in Ballari, citing non-functional check posts and weak monitoring

BALLARI

Illegal iron ore transportation in Ballari district has once again come under scrutiny after Lok Sabha MP E. Tukaram personally visited mining areas and exposed alleged irregularities in the system.

Large-scale movement of iron ore from mining zones to industries, including Jindal Steel Factory, has raised serious concerns, with over 1,500 lorries reportedly transporting ore daily. Officials say trucks usually carry 18 to 40 tonnes per trip.

As per regulations, permits are issued at mining sites and the quantity and destination are recorded. Trucks are then supposed to be checked at weighbridges in designated check posts. However, MP Tukaram found that three out of four check posts in the Bannihatti area have been non-functional for over three months, leaving only one operational.

He alleged that due to broken check posts, overloaded trucks are passing without proper verification, enabling possible illegal transportation of mineral resources.

During his inspection, Tukaram questioned officials over the delay in repairs, stating that complaints about non-functional check posts had been raised earlier but no action was taken. He expressed suspicion of large-scale irregularities and possible involvement of officials in the scam.Local sources also claimed that illegal transportation is continuing with alleged benefits going to private operators and questioned the role of certain departments in monitoring the process.Authorities from the Mines Department have not issued a response yet.Meanwhile, in a separate incident, police in Ballari seized 17.46 tonnes of illegally transported ration rice near Kampli and arrested three individuals, including accused from Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. A case has been registered and investigation is underway.Officials said both cases highlight the need for stricter enforcement and better monitoring of transport and supply systems in the district.

Summer camp boosts children's creative growth skills

CHITRADURGA

K.H. Vijayakumar said summer camps at Chitradurga Balabhavan help children reduce mobile use, improve creativity, learning, mental health, and overall personality development

Deputy Director of Women and Child Development Department K. H. Vijayakumar said that summer camps help children grow mentally and develop their personality in a healthy way. He spoke at the inauguration of a 15 day children's summer camp held at the District Balabhavan in Chitradurga. The camp is jointly organized by the State Balabhavan Society, Zilla Panchayat and Women and Child Development Department. He said that children are spending too much time on mobile phones, TV and social media which is affecting their health and studies. He added that such camps provide opportunities for learning beyond classrooms and help reduce stress while improving creativity. National adventure sportsperson Jyothiraj said that in earlier days there were no such facilities and now government support is helping children grow in different skills. He encouraged children to take part in extracurricular activities along with studies for overall development of personality and confidence. District officials said the camp aims to build self confidence leadership skills and identify hidden talent among children. Various cultural programs were also conducted in the camp to entertain and inspire the children. Several officers including Child Development Project Officers, Balabhavan staff, resource teachers and other officials were present at the event. The organizers said that similar programs will continue in the future to support the growth of children in the district. They also appealed to parents to encourage children to participate in such camps and make use of government facilities for their overall development. The camp is expected to create awareness among children about healthy habits discipline creativity and importance of balancing studies with extracurricular activities in life

Homestay owner, staff arrested in assault case

MYSURU

A United States national was allegedly sexually assaulted at a homestay in Kutta area of Kodagu district, leading to the arrest of two people, including the homestay owner and an employee.

Police said the incident reportedly occurred last week but came to light after the survivor informed officials at the U.S. Embassy following her departure from the location. A case has been registered at Kutta police station and investigation is underway.

According to the complaint, the woman alleged that her drink was spiked with intoxicants before the assault. She also accused the homestay owner of trying to suppress the incident, blocking her communication by cutting Wi-Fi access, and not assisting her in contacting police authorities.After managing to leave the homestay three days later, she reached Mysuru and informed embassy officials, who then coordinated with local authorities. Police subsequently arrested the main accused, a staff member originally from Jharkhand, along with the homestay owner for alleged cover-up and failure to assist.Superintendent of Police Bindu Mani R. N. confirmed that both accused have been taken into judicial custody and further investigation is in progress.The incident has drawn strong reactions from political leaders, with concerns raised over the impact on tourism in Kodagu, a major travel destination. State minister N. S. Boseraju has ordered a detailed and impartial probe and instructed officials to take strict action against those found guilty.

Gadag plans organized celebration for Buddha Jayanti

GADAG

Additional Deputy Commissioner Duragesh K. R. directed officials to make proper arrangements for celebrating Sri Bhagavan Buddha Jayanti in a neat and organised manner on May 1.

He chaired a preparatory meeting at the District Collector's office hall and said the main programme will be held at the District Administration Building auditorium in Gadag city.

He instructed that similar celebrations should also be conducted at the taluk level under the leadership of Tahsildars to ensure wider participation.

Officials said meritorious students who scored high marks in SSLC and PUC examinations, along with senior citizens who have contributed to society, will be felicitated during the programme.

A special lecture by scholars who have studied the life and teachings of Gautama Buddha will be organised to spread awareness among the public.

Dr. Duragesh emphasised that all arrangements, including invitations, stage setup, food and drinking water, and banners, should be made systematically.

He said the celebration should convey Buddha's message of peace, harmony and compassion in a meaningful way.

Officials and community members discussed various preparations during the meeting and assured cooperation for the successful arrangements of the programme.

Several department officials and organisers attended the meeting and shared suggestions to ensure smooth execution of the district-level celebration.

Haveri prepares for monsoon farm supply monitoring

HAVERI

MLA and Assembly Deputy Speaker Rudrappa Lamani said strict action will be taken against any violation in the sale of seeds and fertilizers during the monsoon season.

He was speaking at an agricultural equipment vendors' meeting held at the Taluk Panchayat Hall in Haveri, where preparations for the upcoming farming season were discussed.Lamani said Haveri taluk is agriculture dependent, and it is the responsibility of vendors and officials to ensure farmers receive quality fertilizers and seeds at fixed prices without any inconvenience.

DC C.N. Sridhar ordered transparent fertilizer supply, timely distribution, and strict monitoring to prevent shortages during monsoon

DC PUSHES TRANSPARENCY IN FERTILIZER SUPPLY SYSTEM

GADAG

Deputy Commissioner C.N. Sridhar has directed officials to ensure transparency in fertilizer supply and prevent any shortage for farmers during the upcoming monsoon season in the district.

He issued the instructions while chairing the District Level Agricultural Equipment Monitoring Committee and monsoon preparedness meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's office on Tuesday.

He said there should be no delay or irregularity in fertilizer distribution and stressed that cooperative societies must speed up sales to farmers. He added that the entire supply chain must be closely monitored so that fertilizers are properly recorded in Point of Sale systems as soon as companies release stocks.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed officials to maintain buffer stock for emergency use and ensure timely distribution to farmers without disruption.

He warned that strict action will be taken against dealers or middlemen who hoard fertilizers or create artificial shortages in the market. He also asked agriculture officials to submit advance data on fertilizer distribution to maintain transparency.

He emphasized that farmers should be guided to use balanced fertilizers based on soil quality instead of relying only on urea or DAP.

He further directed officials to ensure crop insurance awareness and timely compensation support in case of monsoon-related damage.

Joint Director of Agriculture Chetana Patil said the district requires over 67,000 metric tons of fertilizers for the monsoon season and sufficient stock has already been arranged for initial supply.

Officials said fertilizer distribution will be monitored through the K-Kisan system and farmers will be allowed to purchase based on land records and crop requirements.

Critical rescue after elephant stuck in mud

HANUR

A wild female elephant is in critical condition after getting stuck in mud at the Uduthore Halla reservoir in the buffer zone of the Male Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary. The elephant has not responded to treatment for two days and is reported to be very weak.

On Saturday evening, four elephants had come to the reservoir to drink water. During the movement, three of them got trapped in thick mud. Forest officials, along with fire and forest staff, rushed to the spot after being alerted and began a rescue operation.

Two elephants were successfully rescued and returned safely to the forest. However, one female elephant remains in serious condition and is being treated continuously by veterinary officer Dr Ramesh from the Nagarhole forest region.

Officials are using a trained elephant to assist in lifting efforts. Food items like sugarcane and watermelon have been offered, but the animal is not responding. Staff have also set up shade to protect it from heat while rescue efforts continue.

GREEN FARMING METHODS

Eco friendly farming training for Krishi Sakhis

GADAG

A six day training programme on eco friendly farming methods for Krishi Sakhis began at Hulakoti on Tuesday. The programme is jointly organised by Sanjeevini KSRLPS and ICAR KH Patil Krishi Vigyan Kendra. It started from April 21 to April 26. Zilla Panchayat Project Director M V Chalageri inaugurated the event and said Krishi Sakhis play a key role in supporting farmers and improving agriculture practices in the district.District Manager Maddesh Mallimara explained the aims of the training and the importance of Module Four. The event was presided over by Dr Sudha V who urged participants to share the knowledge gained with farmers, especially women, at the right time.Dr Manju Prakash Patil compered the programme, while Dr Vinayak Niranjan welcomed the gathering and N H Bhandi spoke on the occasion. Officials, resource persons and around 30 Krishi Sakhis from Gadag and Gajendragad attended the training programme.

Serial house theft case busted, accused arrested in Vijayanagara

VIJAYANAGARA

Police in Harapanahalli taluk have solved a serial house theft case reported in Neelgund village and arrested one accused, recovering stolen property worth ₹5.24 lakh.

The arrested person has been identified as Ilyaz, a resident of Arasikere village in the district.

According to police, thefts took place on November 24, 2025, when valuables including gold, silver, and cash were stolen from two houses. Another burglary was reported on December 15, leading to multiple cases being registered at Harapanahalli Police Station.

A special investigation team was formed under the supervision of senior police officers including the District Superintendent of Police S. Jahnavi IPS and Additional Superintendent of Police Manjunath. The team conducted a detailed operation and arrested the accused on April 19.Police recovered gold and silver ornaments worth ₹3.14 lakh, cash of ₹1.10 lakh, and a motorcycle valued at ₹1 lakh used in the crime.Officials said the total recovery amounts to ₹5,24,900 in connection with multiple theft cases registered across Harapanahalli and Chigateri police station limits.

The investigation team included officers and staff from multiple units who worked together to track the accused and recover stolen property.

Row over Nasir removal sparks political tension

Mubarak criticized action against Nasir Ahmed, saying it may affect Congress support and Muslim community trust

KOLAR

Former Municipal Corporation President B.M. Mubarak has urged Congress MLAs from the undivided district to break their silence over the removal of MLC Nasir Ahmed from the post of Chief Minister's Political Secretary.

Speaking at a press conference in the city, he said the action taken over alleged anti-party activities during the Davangere by-election has caused concern among party workers and the minority community.Mubarak stated that the decision may not cause personal loss to individuals but could impact the Congress party and the Muslim community politically. He said Nasir Ahmed has served the party for nearly five decades with loyalty and dedication.He also highlighted that Nasir Ahmed, along with other leaders, played a key role in mobilizing minority votes across the state and strengthening the party at the grassroots level.Expressing concern, he said the recent action has affected the trust of the Muslim community in the party, which had supported Congress in large numbers during elections.He questioned the timing of the decision, stating that the by-election results are yet to be declared and such action may send a wrong message.

Mubarak appealed to senior leaders and MLAs to present the ground reality to the party high command and ensure that justice is done.

He also emphasized that political decisions should consider the sentiments of communities and long-standing contributions of leaders.

The issue has sparked discussions within party circles, with leaders calling for clarity and resolution to avoid further dissatisfaction among supporters.

QUICK READ

Mandya launches cattle vaccination drive programme

MANDYA

The Animal Husbandry Department in Mandya, in collaboration with Gejjalagere, has launched the ninth round of foot-and-mouth disease vaccination programme. It will cover 3,27,998 cattle and 79,219 buffaloes, totalling 4,07,217 animals across the district. Officials will conduct door-to-door free vaccination for animals above three months of age from April 23 to May 22, 2026. The programme aims to make Karnataka free from this disease and protect livestock health. Department officials said teams are visiting villages regularly and vaccinating cattle, buffaloes and calves, ensuring prevention of spread, and they appealed to farmers to cooperate fully for successful implementation of programme success.

Control rooms set up to tackle water crisis

CHIKKABALLAPURA

The district administration has set up control rooms to address drinking water shortages caused by rising temperatures. Officials said residents can contact taluk tahsildar offices for issues related to water supply, sowing seeds, fodder, and fertilizers. Control room numbers have been issued for Chikkaballapura, Shidlaghatta, Chintamani, Gauribidanur, Gudibande, Bagepalli, Manchenahalli, and Chelur. People can also call the district collector's office control room from 9 am to 6 pm to register complaints. District Collector G. Prabhu said the system aims to ensure quick response and prevent hardship during the summer season across all taluks in the district effectively.

KSRTC launches advance seat booking system

KARWAR

KSRTC has introduced an online advance seat reservation system under Avatara Technology for 414 express buses operating within and outside the state. The facility covers several divisions including Bagalkot, Belagavi, Dharwad, Hubballi, Gadag, Haveri, and Uttara Kannada. Passengers can now book tickets in advance for routes to major cities such as Hyderabad, Pune, Shirdi, Panaji, Tirupati, and others. Officials said the system also benefits routes within Karnataka like Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mangaluru, and Gokarna. Bookings can be made through the official website ksrtc.in. Authorities said the move aims to improve convenience and reduce crowding at bus stations.

MLA Srinivas Mane said BJP ideology may be affected after 2026 census, demanding immediate women's reservation implementation

CENSUS, WOMEN'S QUOTA SPARKS POLITICAL DEBATE ROW

HANAGAL

MLA Srinivas Mane said that after the completion of the census in 2026, the basic ideology of the BJP will be affected. He was speaking at a press conference held at his public relations office in Hanagal. He alleged that the BJP is rushing to implement its agenda under the pretext of women's reservation to benefit economically backward and exploited communities.

He demanded that instead of waiting for the census and delimitation process the central government should immediately convene a special session of the Lok Sabha and implement 33 percent women's reservation based on current representation. He said the Congress would extend full support to this move.

He added that seat redistribution based on the 2011 census would cause injustice to southern states especially in political representation and development funds. He stated that southern states may gain fair representation only after the 2026 census.

The MLA said the ruling NDA government's approach shows political motives behind the women's reservation issue. He pointed out that Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself had indicated that rejection of the bill could benefit the BJP. He also said the Congress has always supported women reservation

including 33 percent reservation in local bodies when it was in power.

He claimed that the dignity of the Prime Minister's office has been affected by political statements on the issue. He further said that the central government is discriminating against southern states in tax distribution and seat allocation.

He added that women leaders of the Congress party are already protesting against the delay in implementation and urged all women across parties to support the reservation demand unitedly together strongly

Opposition blocking women's bill insult: BJP Leader

BJP's Lalita Anapura accused opposition of blocking women's reservation bill, praising Modi's efforts and calling it crucial for women's political empowerment

YADGIR

BJP State Secretary Lalita Anapura alleged that the opposition parties are obstructing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to provide political reservation for women, calling it an insult to women across the country. She was speaking at a press conference held at Patrika Bhawan in Yadgiri city on Wednesday.

She said that if the Women's Reservation Bill had been passed, it would have become a historic step in empowering women. However, she claimed that Congress and its allies opposed the bill, which exposed their anti-women stand.

Lalita Anapura said that opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, only make statements about women's issues but fail to support real empowerment measures. She added that providing opportunities for women in Parliament and state assemblies is essential to strengthen democracy.

She highlighted several central government schemes such as the Jal Jeevan Mission, Ujjwala Yojana, construction of toilets, and housing schemes where benefits have been directly provided in women's names. She said these schemes have helped crores of women across the country.

She also said that Prime Minister Modi's rise to power was based on public trust and not family background, and added that constitutional recognition to the OBC Commission was an important step for social justice.

Criticizing Congress, she alleged that despite ruling for many years, it failed to support backward classes and delayed implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations.

She also cited BJP's promotion of women leaders like Sushma Swaraj, Uma Bharti, Vasundhara Raje, Anandiben Patel, and President Droupadi Murmu as examples of women empowerment within the party.

BJP leaders and party workers were present during the press conference.

Jana Sena Party launches drive in Chitradurga

CHITRADURGA

The Jana Sena Party, led by Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, is set to begin its organisational expansion in Karnataka through Chitradurga. Party member D Basavaraj (B T Raj) said the party aims to build a strong base from the grassroots level.

The official entry into the state will be marked with a grand membership drive event at S G Convention Hall on Challakere Road on Saturday, April 25 at 9:30 am. The programme is expected to attract party workers and supporters from across the region.

Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council member Nagababu and Jana Sena Party General Secretary Ram Talluri will attend as chief guests. During the event, key organisational posts are expected to be announced to strengthen the party structure in Karnataka.

The party said it will focus on social justice, transparency and people centric governance. Leaders also stated that the drive aims to attract youth and common citizens to build a new political alternative in the state. Media coordinator C Avinash has invited press representatives to cover the programme.

Madiga Samiti demands withdrawal of recruitment order

HUNSUR

Members of the Madiga Horata Samiti in Hunsur have demanded immediate withdrawal of a government order related to recruitment of 56,432 posts, alleging that internal reservation norms were not followed.The protest leaders said the circular dated February 27, 2026, should be cancelled and recruitment should instead be carried out with proper 15 percent internal reservation for Scheduled Castes.Taluk secretary Belthur Venkatesh and other representatives, including Shivaram and Rayanahalli Swamy, submitted that the recruitment process violates social justice principles.

Summer water crisis hits Singaramaranahalli village

HUNSUR

Residents of Singaramaranahalli village in Hunsur are facing a serious drinking water shortage as summer temperatures rise and local water sources dry up. The situation has raised concerns about the delay in official response from local representatives and administration.Villagers say that lakes and streams in the area have completely dried, leaving people dependent on limited water supply. The Panchayat is currently supplying only two cans of water per family, which villagers say is not sufficient for daily needs.

Local residents and social workers have questioned why a meeting of officials from all 41 Gram Panchayats was not held before the peak summer season to plan water management. They believe early coordination could have prevented the current crisis.

Satya MAS Foundation President Satyappa said that repeated appeals have been made to elected representatives and the taluk administration for nearly one and a half months, but no effective action has been taken so far.

The village, located in a low-rainfall zone, has been struggling with recurring water problems for years. A project to fill local ponds using water from the Ibjala irrigation project has been approved, but villagers say it will take time, while the situation is already severe.Residents report that while drinking water is scarce for humans, there is still water available for livestock, increasing their frustration. They are urging immediate intervention from both the taluk and district administration.

Health Department issues heat wave safety advisory

CHIKKABALLAPURA

The District Health and Family Welfare Department has issued a public advisory as rising summer temperatures are expected across Karnataka from March to May 2026. Officials warned that extreme heat may cause dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat stroke, especially among children, elderly people and those with illnesses.District Health Officer Dr. Mahesh Kumar urged people to drink plenty of water frequently, even if they are not thirsty, and carry water while travelling. He also advised using ORS, lemon juice, buttermilk, fruit juices with salt, and seasonal fruits like watermelon, grapes, cucumber and oranges to stay hydrated.People have been advised to wear light coloured cotton clothes and use umbrellas, hats or other protective coverings while going out in the sun. Footwear should be used at all times outdoors.Officials said residents should stay indoors during peak heat hours between 12 noon and 3 p.m. Outdoor work and events should be scheduled in the cooler morning or evening hours, with proper shade, ventilation and drinking water arrangements.Vulnerable groups such as newborns, pregnant women, elderly people, outdoor workers and patients with heart or blood pressure conditions require special care and daily monitoring.The advisory also warned against alcohol, caffeinated drinks, carbonated beverages and stale or high protein food during extreme heat as they may cause dehydration.

DISTRICT HEALTH DIRECTIVE

Free hospital care must not be burdened: G. Prabhu

CHIKKABALLAPURA

District Magistrate G. Prabhu has directed government doctors not to issue vouchers to patients for medicines bought from outside hospitals. He made this clear during his visit to the Mother and Children Hospital in Gauribidanur taluk on Wednesday.

He said that government hospitals must provide all medicines free of cost and ensure proper treatment without shifting the burden to patients. He added that essential medicines, including those for snakebite and dog bite cases, are already available in sufficient stock across the district.

The District Magistrate noted that the Gauribidanur Mother and Children Hospital treats around 15,000 outpatients and admits about 500 inpatients every month. He instructed health officials to ensure timely and fair service delivery without any delay or negligence.He also announced that a district-wide health campaign will soon be launched, in which medical teams will visit households and conduct screening for 10 common diseases for people above 30 years of age.Prabhu stressed that fetal testing centres must strictly follow legal guidelines and warned against any illegal gender detection activities. He said both government and private centres must operate only with proper licenses under Health Department rules.He informed that orders have been placed to procure CT and MRI scanning machines worth ₹7 crore for the district hospital. These facilities will help provide advanced treatment for kidney, brain, heart and spinal diseases free of cost at the government medical college.District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Mahesh Kumar and other health department officials were present during the inspection and review meeting held at the hospital.

Basava Jayanti blood camp held in Savanur village

SAVANUR

A voluntary blood donation camp was organised in Kaliwala village of Savanur as part of Basava Jayanti and Sri Goni Basaveshwara Rathotsava celebrations. The programme was jointly conducted by villagers of Kaliwala, Primary Health Centre Kadakola, HIMS Blood Fund Centre Haveri, and the Taluk Hospital Blood Storage Unit.

The camp was held for the fourth time in the village and received active participation from local youth and residents. A total of 25 people donated blood during the event, making the camp a success.

Speaking after offering prayers to the portrait of Sri Jagajyoti Basaveshwara, Sri Yallalingeshwara Mahaswamy of Kaliwala highlighted the teachings of Basavanna. He said Basavanna promoted equality, cleanliness, and the principle of "Kayakave Kailasa," which connects hard work with spiritual life.

QUICK READ

Online objections invited on Panchayat seats

MANDYA

The Karnataka Panchayat Raj Delimitation Commission has invited public comments and objections regarding the seat allocation of elected members in all taluk gram panchayats. The details have been published in the Karnataka Special Gazette dated April 18, 2026, and are also available on the official website. Citizens can submit their views online or send them by post to the commission office in Bengaluru. Authorities said objections must be submitted by April 24. Eligible applicants will also be allowed to attend a hearing at the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department office in Bengaluru as part of the review process.

Admissions open at Women's College in Karwar

KARWAR

Admissions have started for BA, BCom, and BCA courses at the Government First Grade Women's College in Karwar for the current academic year. College officials said students seeking quality higher education at low government fees can apply through the admission help desk set up on campus. The application forms are being issued free of cost. Authorities encouraged eligible students to take advantage of the opportunity and secure admission early. For more details, students can contact the college through the provided phone numbers. The principal said the admission process aims to support women's education and increase enrollment in degree programmes.

High Court third language marks issue explained

Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa said court ruled marks for third language, SSLC results soon, and summer water arrangements ensured

SHIVAMOGGA

Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa said the High Court has ruled to give marks instead of grades for third language. He said the government will discuss the issue with Chief Minister and take a decision so that students do not face problems.

He also said SSLC results are expected soon and this year performance has improved. He added that drinking water arrangements are being made in summer and list of problem villages has been prepared. He said about 20 places in Shivamogga city and other taluks may face water shortage, so tankers and borewells will be arranged.

He informed that KFD has caused four deaths in the district and health department has started precaution steps. A fever survey and monkey death study is also being conducted and samples have been collected in all taluks. He gave sample numbers from different taluks and said most results are normal with few active cases under treatment. He also reacted to women's reservation saying it was already approved in 2023 and delay in implementation is political. He urged that the matter should be resolved quickly to avoid confusion among students and the public. District Congress President R. Prasannakumar and other leaders were present at the press conference.

He said the government is monitoring summer water supply closely in all taluks and instructions have been given to local officers to act quickly in case of shortage. He appealed for cooperation from the public and assured that all departments are working together to avoid inconvenience during the season.

JDS women stage protest against Congress

YADGIR

JD(S) women protested in Yadgir against Congress, accusing it of blocking women's reservation bill and delaying 33% political representation for women

A large protest was held in Yadgir city on Wednesday by the Janata Dal (Secular) women's district unit against the Congress and its allies over the issue of women's reservation bill. The demonstration was led by district women's unit president Nagaratnamurthy Annapur.

Thousands of women workers gathered at Netaji Circle and raised slogans against the Congress, accusing it of blocking the women's reservation bill introduced by the Union government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The protesters claimed that the move reflected an anti-women stand by the party.

Speaking at the protest, Nagaratnamurthy Annapur said that political reservation for women has been repeatedly delayed due to opposition from Congress and its allies. She alleged that despite women being equal contributors in society, they are still denied 33 percent political reservation.

Youth leader Parimal Patil Chamanalli said the Congress has been maintaining an anti-women stand for several years and criticized the party for using welfare guarantee schemes to mislead women voters.

After the protest, a memorandum was submitted to the Additional Deputy Commissioner at the District Collector's Office demanding support for the women's reservation bill.

The protest began around 10 a.m. and continued for nearly 40 minutes, causing temporary traffic disruption at Netaji Circle. Police made tight security arrangements and diverted traffic through alternative routes to manage the situation.

Participants carried JDS flags and raised slogans in support of party leaders including H.D. Deve Gowda and H.D. Kumaraswamy. Several women leaders and party workers from different parts of the district took part in the demonstration and expressed strong opposition to the Congress stance on the issue.

KSRTC BUS SEIZED OVER UNPAID COMPENSATION CASE

SHAHAPUR

Court officials in Shahapur seized a KSRTC bus belonging to the Davangere division after the transport corporation failed to pay court-ordered compensation in a road accident case.The incident dates back to October 29, 2019, when a KSRTC bus travelling from Kalaburagi to Davangere hit a woman, Noorja Begum, and her five-year-old grandson Muzamil near the old bus stand in Shahapur. The child died on the spot, while the grandmother suffered serious injuries.The victim's family had filed a case seeking compensation under motor vehicle accident laws. The court later ordered KSRTC to pay ₹13 lakh.

At Kota Ambedkar Jayanti, Constitution was praised as unifying all religions and ensuring equality under Ambedkar's leadership

Constitution seen as unifying book for all religions

KOTA

The Constitution of India was described as a document that brings unity among all religions during an Ambedkar Jayanti programme held in Kota.

Speaking as the chief lecturer at an event organised by the Saligrama Rotary Club, retired principal Balakrishna Shetty said that the Constitution plays a role similar to sacred texts of different religions. He compared it to the Bhagavad Gita for Hindus, the Quran for Muslims, and the Bible for Christians, while crediting Dr. B. R. Ambedkar as its chief architect.

He said the Constitution gives equal importance to all sections of society and even recognises nature as part of governance. According to him, India's vast diversity, large population, and complex structure made the drafting of the Constitution a major achievement.

Shetty also explained that the Constitution helps maintain unity in a country with multiple languages, cultures, and regions. He noted that it provides clear guidelines for governance and helps define state boundaries and administrative systems.

The programme was presided over by Rotary Club President Yogish. Several members including Treasurer Chandra Poojary, former president Timma Poojary, Devendra Patugar, and Rajendra Suvarna were present.

Retired principal Krishna Kanchan introduced the speaker, while Rotary Club Secretary Sharanaya Hiremath delivered the vote of thanks.Speakers at the event highlighted Dr. Ambedkar's contribution in framing the Constitution and stressed that its values of equality, justice, and unity remain relevant in today's society.

Committee to study mobile High Court bench proposal

MANGALURU

A committee will be formed to review the proposal for setting up a mobile bench of the Karnataka High Court in Mangaluru, said Chief Justice Vibhu Bakru.

He stated that the decision comes after continued demands from legal professionals, public representatives, and civic groups seeking easier access to justice in the coastal region. The proposal aims to improve court accessibility for people who currently need to travel long distances for hearings.A struggle committee for establishing a permanent High Court bench in Mangaluru has been active for some time. The committee, led by local leaders and advocates, has held several meetings under the guidance of MLA Ivan D'Souza. They have also submitted memorandums to various authorities, including the judiciary and government officials.Recently, representatives of the movement met senior legal authorities and discussed the possibility of a mobile bench arrangement, which could include a division bench and single judge benches in the initial phase.The delegation also held discussions with key legal and administrative officials, including senior advocates and bar association representatives, to push forward the demand.Chief Justice Vibhu Bakru said the proposed committee will carefully examine the feasibility, structure, and operational aspects of the mobile bench before any final decision is taken.Legal representatives believe that such a move would reduce the burden on litigants from coastal districts and speed up justice delivery.The proposal is still under review, and further consultations are expected before implementation steps are decided.

Library Association district unit inaugurated

VIJAYAPURA

The Vijayapura District Chapter of the Karnataka State Library Association was officially inaugurated at the Library Seminar Hall of the College of Engineering and Technology in Vijayapura on April 15, 2026.

The programme was inaugurated by BLDEA Vice President Dr. P. G. Halakatti. On the occasion, Prof. P. G. Tadasa from Karnataka State Women's University administered the oath of office to the newly elected district office bearers.

Karnataka State Library Association President Dr. S. L. Kadadevaramath highlighted the long-pending issue of vacant librarian posts in schools, colleges, and public libraries. He said that several posts have remained unfilled since 2011 and urged the government to take immediate steps.

LIS Academy President Dr. P. V. Konnur spoke about the importance of library professionals in education and society. He stressed that librarians should be recognised as teaching staff and encouraged skill development through workshops and seminars at the district level.

Honorary President Dr. M. M. Bachalapur spoke about unemployment issues faced by library professionals and assured full support from the association. Newly elected President Prof. M. K. Biradar said the district unit would work for the growth and welfare of library professionals through collective efforts.

The event also announced the new team of office bearers, including Prof. Shantadevi T. and Prof. Gavisiddappa A. as vice presidents, Somashekar Lalasangi as secretary, and Dr. Renuka Poojary as treasurer.

The programme was compered by Dr. Sivaganga, while Vidya Boodihal delivered the vote of thanks.

Railways drops plan to shift Raichur goods shed

RAICHUR

The South Central Railway has officially rejected the proposal to relocate the goods shed from Raichur railway station to Yaramaras, bringing an end to a long-pending demand raised by local representatives and traders.According to officials from the Guntakal Division, the proposal was examined earlier after South Central Railway General Manager Gajanan Mallya inspected the Yaramaras station site in 2021. Around 9.5 acres of railway land had been identified for the project, and plans were initially prepared to shift goods handling activities there.The Raichur District Chamber of Commerce had also sought updates on the project, as the relocation was expected to ease congestion at the city station and improve goods movement, especially fertilizer transport. It was also believed that shifting the shed could reduce heavy truck traffic within the city and help prevent road accidents.However, railway authorities have now confirmed that the project has been dropped due to administrative constraints and existing rules.

100% cattle vaccination drive launched in Yadgir

YADGIR

A large-scale livestock vaccination campaign has been launched in Yadgir under the National Livestock Disease Control Programme, with officials aiming to vaccinate all cattle in the district.Deputy Commissioner Harshal Bhoyar directed the Veterinary Services Department to ensure 100 percent coverage during the 9th round of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination, which will run from April 23 to May 22, 2026. He stressed that no animal should be left unvaccinated.Officials informed that the district has 2,19,892 cattle, and more than 2,31,100 vaccine doses have been made available. Adequate cold chain facilities, including walk-in coolers, ice-lined refrigerators.

CLASSROOM COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Educational theatre skills boost teaching methods

CHITRADURGA

Experts in the education field highlighted the importance of theatre skills in modern teaching during a programme held at Chitradurga. The session focused on improving teaching quality through creative methods and better communication in classrooms.

Economist and educationist Dr. G. N. Mallikarjunappa said that teachers should understand the value of theatre-based learning to make education more effective and engaging. He explained that students should not be limited to marks alone but should also develop creativity, understanding, and life values.

He added that simple speech, clear expression, body language, and use of teaching aids are important qualities of a good teacher. According to him, theatre activities help students remember lessons better and make learning more enjoyable and long-lasting.

Speakers also stressed that teachers should guide students with positive values and make learning more practical through interactive methods. They advised trainees to use drama and performance techniques to explain topics such as social issues, corruption, child marriage, dowry, and superstition.

The programme also included stage performances and training sessions for B.Ed students on educational theatre techniques. Resource persons demonstrated how drama can be used in classrooms to improve understanding and communication.

Assistant Director of the Kannada and Culture Department Dr. B. M. Gurunath said that folk theatre is an important part of Karnataka's cultural identity and helps connect education with tradition and social awareness.The event encouraged teacher trainees to adopt innovative teaching methods and prepare for challenges in the education sector while maintaining strong social and cultural values.

MRF LIMITED
CIN: L25111TN1960PLC004306
Regd.Off :114, Greams Road, Chennai 600 006
Tel.: 044-28292777; Fax : 91-44-28290562
Email : mrfshare@mrfmailcom
Website : www.mrftyres.com

Notice is hereby given that the following share certificates are reported misplaced or lost or stolen and the Shareholder/ Claimants thereof have appealed to the Company for issue of duplicate share certificates:

Share Cert Nos: 95980, 73199 for 13, 06 shares bearing distinctive nos. 3392537 – 3392549, 2335806 – 2335811 all inclusive under Ledger Folio R00533 in the name of Mr. N K Prabhakara Rao (decd.), the claimant is Ms. Anuradha Abraham, who resides at 62/6 Suchitra Apt, Coles Rd, Bangalore 560 005.

The public are hereby warned against purchasing or dealing in any way, with the above share certificates. Any person(s) who has/have any claim in respect of the above share certificates should lodge such claim in writing to the Company at the address mentioned above within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice, after which no claim will be entertained and the Company will proceed with the issue of duplicate share certificate.

For MRF LIMITED
Chennai S. DHANVANTH KUMAR
Apr 10, 2026 Company Secretary

IN THE COURT OF 2nd ADDL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPUR
CMIS. No. 144/2026
PETITIONER: SMT.Annapurna bai W/o Siddhusa aged about 52 years, **Sri. Somanath S** S/o Siddhusa, Aged about 35, All R/at No.00 4th ward Vinayaka nagara Doddaballapur Taluk V/s
DEFENDANTS: Registrar of Birth and Death, The commissioner, CMC, Doddaballapura
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petitioner under Section 13(3) and 14 of Registratiton of Birth And Deaths act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his Brother by name late. Sri.Siddhusa S/o Hanumanthasa who died on 05-02-2008 at Vinayaka Nagar, Doddaballapura town.
In this regard it is hereby notice to general public whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 29.05.2026 in default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.
Give under my hand and seal of the court on the 22nd day of April 2026.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate: **Umesha.T.** Doddaballapura-501203
Date: 01-04-2026

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PUNEETH G S/o R GOPALASWAMY R/o Ward No 4, Ramasvamy Bidi, B M Road,Ramanagara, Ramanagaram, Ramanagar, Karnataka-562159, have changed the name of my minor son LAVIN P aged 3 years and he shall hereafter be known as SADVIN P.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Deepinder Singh Binner S/o Pushpinder Singh Binner R/o Apartment No. 4014, Sobha Iris, Kariyammana Agrahara Main Rd, Devarabisanahalli, Bellandur, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560103, changed the name of my minor daughter Nazneen Bhartikiran to Nazneen Bhartikiran Singh. 25 days.

NAME CHANGE
I, **SHAMSHADEEN**, S/o Ali Sab, Residing at, Near Urdu School 5th Cross, Uppar Halli, 220-B-M Khanum Manzil, Tumkur-572102, have changed my name to **SHAMSUDDIN**, vide affidavit dated: 22.04.2026, before Notary T.N.BHARATHI, Tumakuru.

BEML wins ₹590 cr defence order, stock jumps 8%

The contract, awarded in the normal course of business, will support deployment on the Indian Army's T-72 and T-90 tanks

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Defence has awarded a major Rs 590 crore contract to Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) for the production of advanced trawl assemblies.

These specialized systems will be fitted onto the Indian Army's T-72 and T-90 tanks to help clear landmines, significantly improving the safety and speed of soldiers moving through dangerous combat zones.

This agreement is a major win for the "Make in India" initiative. The mine-clearing equipment was designed and developed entirely within the country through a partnership with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). By creating this technology at home, India is reducing its reliance on expensive foreign imports and strengthening its own national security.

Shantanu Roy, the head of BEML, expressed pride in the new contract, stating that the order reflects the government's trust in the company's ability to deliver high-quality military gear. He noted that the project showcases the strength of India's research and development sector. These new trawl systems use multi-layered mechanisms to create safe paths for armored vehicles, giving the military a decisive advantage on the modern battlefield.

BEML, a key player under the Ministry of Defence, has been operating for sixty years across the mining, rail, and construction sectors. With manufacturing hubs in cities like Bengaluru and Palakkad, the company is now positioning itself as a global competitor in the anti-mine equipment market. This latest deal not only boosts the army's strength but also cements India's reputation as a growing hub for advanced defense technology.

What does this order involve?

The order relates to the supply of specialised trawl assemblies. These are tank-mounted systems designed to clear landmines and create safe pathways for armoured vehicles during operations. They are typically deployed on main battle tanks such as the T-72 and T-90. The contract comes directly from the Ministry of Defence and forms part of routine procurement. It also comes after an earlier contract in December 2024, when the company received an order worth about ₹110 crore for engine supplies.

'Seeds of Life' offers new hope for Manipur growers

CHURACHANDPUR

In a bold move to wipe out the illegal drug trade, the Churachandpur police and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) have launched a new initiative called 'Hin-Chi' (Seeds of Life), which project aims to help local farmers trade their illegal poppy fields for legal, profitable crops like ginger, peas, and bananas.

The programme marks a major shift in how authorities handle drug production. Instead of focusing only on arrests, the police are working directly with village chiefs and 127 families to build a better future. To get started, officials distributed 55,000 kg of ginger seeds, 450 kg of pea seeds, and 6,500 banana saplings. These resources were provided free of charge, thanks to a generous grant from a private technology firm.

By removing the financial risk of switching crops, the project offers a lifeline to families who previously relied on poppy farming for survival. Authorities aren't just handing out seeds, they have formed special teams to visit farms regularly. These experts will help farmers manage their new crops and, most importantly, connect them with buyers to ensure they get a fair price for their harvest.

Local leaders believe "Hin-Chi" represents a turning point for the region, replacing fear and crime with self-reliance and growth. If successful, this community-focused model could serve as a blueprint for other parts of Manipur. For now, the project stands as a symbol of hope, proving that with the right support, communities can root out illegal trades and thrive.

Money laundering: Court rejects bail to Rcom ex-director

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has refused to grant temporary bail to Punit Garg, the former director of Reliance Communications (RCom). Garg, who is a key figure in a massive Rs 40,000 crore money laundering case, had requested release based on his failing health.

The 61-year-old businessman asked the court for permission to visit a private hospital for specialized tests, including a capsule endoscopy. His legal team argued that Garg suffers from several serious health issues, such as heart problems, severe bone disease, and a chronic stomach condition. They claimed the medical facilities inside the jail were not equipped to handle his complex needs.

However, Special Judge Ajay Gupta rejected the plea after reviewing a report from a team of expert doctors at AIIMS. The court stated that, according to the medical board, Garg does not currently need the specific tests he requested. The judge noted that if his health worsens, jail authorities must follow official rules and take him to a government-run hospital instead of a private one.

Garg was arrested in January 2026 by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Investigators allege that he played a major role in hiding and moving stolen bank funds through foreign companies. The ED claims some of this money was even used to buy a luxury apartment in New York and pay for his children's education abroad. While Garg remains in custody, the court emphasized that his medical care will be managed through the standard government referral system.

Court gives NIA more time in blast probe

NEW DELHI

Delhi court has granted 45 more days to the National Investigation Agency to complete its probe into the 2025 Delhi blast case. The extension applies to two accused, Bilal Naseer Malla and Yasir Ahmed Dar. The court approved the request after reviewing the agency's application and report. Earlier, a similar extension was given in February. The blast had taken place near the Red Fort in November 2025. Several arrests have been made in the case so far. Defence lawyers also sought better jail conditions and family contact for the accused. Authorities will continue the investigation.

Massive fire engulfs Pithampur waste plant

DHAR

A terrifying night gripped the industrial hub of Pithampur as a massive fire tore through a waste disposal plant.

The blaze, fuelled by loud explosions, started at the Hazargo Waste facility in Sector 3. It quickly spread to nearby sites, sending thick smoke into the air and causing widespread panic among local workers and residents.

Emergency teams acted fast to prevent a larger disaster. Dhar Collector Abhishek Chaudhary confirmed that fire tenders and gravel dumpers were rushed to the scene. Specialized foam trucks from the Indore Municipal Corporation also joined the fight to smother the stubborn flames. Police officers moved quickly to block off roads and divert traffic, ensuring that curious onlookers stayed away from the dangerous heat and potential chemical fumes. Safety remained the top priority throughout the chaotic night. SP Dhar Mayank Awasthi shared the relieved news that no lives were lost in the inferno. To be safe, authorities evacuated families living in nearby housing areas known as chawls. "We are working hard to keep the fire limited to just two companies," Awasthi stated, noting that the situation is being closely watched.

As the sun rises, the focus shifts from fighting flames to finding answers. Once the site is completely cooled down, a team of experts will pick through the charred remains to figure out what sparked the initial blast. For now, the community remains on edge, thankful for the brave responders who kept the industrial fire from spreading further.

Balaji rejects claims of cash distribution

COIMBATORE

DMK candidate Senthil Balaji has firmly dismissed allegations of distributing cash for votes in the Coimbatore South constituency.

Speaking just days before the crucial Tamil Nadu assembly elections, Balaji challenged his political opponents to file official complaints with the Election Commission if they had any genuine proof of misconduct.

The controversy began when AIADMK candidate Amman Arjunan accused the DMK of electoral malpractice, claiming that voters were being unfairly influenced. In response, Balaji asserted his commitment to a fair election and expressed total confidence that his party would sweep all ten seats in the Coimbatore district. He predicted a massive victory margin for himself, despite the intense competition in the industrial hub.

The campaign has turned personal, with Balaji trading barbs with rival leaders. He recently mocked K. Annamalai over past controversies, questioning the transparency of his assets. Addressing concerns about outsiders staying in the city to help his campaign, Balaji clarified that such support is a standard part of the electoral process and strictly follows the legal timeline set by authorities.

Kedarnath doors open as thousands seek blessings

RUDRAPRAYAG

The majestic doors of the Kedarnath Dham have officially swung open, marking the start of a new pilgrimage season high in the Himalayas.

Thousands of devotees gathered at the temple entrance early morning, filling the air with powerful chants of 'Baba Kedar' as traditional Vedic hymns echoed through the mountains. The temple, beautifully decorated with quintals of colorful flowers, presented a stunning sight against the snowy peaks.

Hemant Dwivedi, chairman of the Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee, formally invited pilgrims from across the globe to visit the sacred shrine and seek the blessings of Lord Shiva.

He confirmed that all necessary arrangements are now in place to ensure a smooth journey for the massive crowds expected this year.

To handle the thousands of visitors, authorities have introduced a new digital system. This includes online registration and a token process designed to prevent long waits and overcrowding. "Our priority is to make sure even the last person in line has a safe and simple experience," Dwivedi stated. The government has also released a strict set of safety rules to manage the high-altitude trek.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami shared his confidence in the state's preparations, noting that the entire Char Dham Yatra is ready to welcome the world. As the gates opened, the atmosphere was charged with intense spiritual energy, transforming the ancient temple into a vibrant center of faith. For many pilgrims, the opening represents a long-awaited moment of peace and divine connection.

Official questions health gaps amid pilgrim rush

UTTARKASHI

The District Magistrate of Uttarkashi has asked the Chief Medical Officer to explain the lack of basic first aid facilities at Yamunotri Dham, as thousands of pilgrims continue to arrive for the Char Dham yatra. Officials said many visitors reported difficulty in getting immediate care for minor injuries, dehydration, and fatigue along the route. The administration has taken note of these complaints and sought a detailed report on why medical arrangements were not fully ready. Despite the issue, the number of pilgrims has been rising steadily across all Char Dham sites, including Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath. Authorities are working to improve services, deploy more medical staff, and set up additional aid centers. Local teams have also been told to stay alert and respond quickly to emergencies. The administration has assured pilgrims that better facilities will be in place soon. Weather conditions remain stable, helping travel continue smoothly.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Zilla Panchayat, Bangalore Urban District
Office of the District Health and Family Welfare Officer
Bangalore Urban District, Old Madras Road, Bangalore 560038
Tel. No.: 080-25202265, Email: **dhobangaloreurban@gmail.com**

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಜಿ.ಆ.ಕು.ಕ/ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/01/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17/04/2026

E-Tender Notice

Tenders have been invited through e-procurement as per KTPP rules to fill the vacant essential posts in District Level Offices, Taluk Health Officers Office and Primary Health Centres/Community Health centres coming under the District Health and Family Welfare office, Bengaluru Urban District, as per Government guidelines from outsourcing on contract basis for the year 2026-27. Interested firms can participate in the tender through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Tenders can be submitted through e-portal from **18.04.2026 to 16.05.2026 upto 3.00 P M.** More details can be obtained from District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Bengaluru Urban District, Old T B Hospital Complex, Indiranagar, Bengaluru – 560038 during office hours.

Sd/-
District Health and Family Welfare Officer,
Bangalore Urban District
DIPR/CP/286/Zen/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು (ಗ್ರಾ) ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕೊಠಡಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:216, 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ಭವನ, ಬೀರಸಂದ್ರಗ್ರಾಮ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ–562110, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ:080–29787455
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: **dombengalururural@gmail.com**

ಸಂ: ಅಸಂಇ/ಬೆಂಗ್ರಾ/ ಹೊರ.ಸಂ/ ಟೆಂಡರ್/ ಸಿಆರ್–01/ 2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22–04–2026

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಡಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳು, ಮೌಲಾನಾ ಆಜಾದ್ ಮಾದರಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು, ಮಹಿಳಾ ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜು, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ನಿಲಯಗಳು, ಮೊರಾರ್ಜಿ ದೇಸಾಯಿ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ, ಡಾ॥ ಎ.ಪಿ.ಜೆ. ಅಬ್ದುಲ್ ಕಲಾಂ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಾದ ಅಡುಗೆಯವರು, ಅಡುಗೆ ಸಹಾಯಕರು, ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ, ರಾತ್ರಿ ಕಾವಲುಗಾರರು, ಶುಶ್ರೂಷಕರು, ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ & ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮಟ್ಟದ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು, ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಡಾಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ್‌ಗಳು, ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಡಿ' ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

1. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.1,34,50,000/– ಹಾಗೂ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.2,02,000/–
2. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22–04–2026.
3. kppp-portal ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಹ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07–05–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ
4. kppp-portal ಮೂಲಕ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08–05–2026 (ದಿನಾಂಕ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ).
5. kppp-portal ಮೂಲಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15–05–2026 (ದಿನಾಂಕ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ).

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕೊಠಡಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:216, 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ಭವನ, ಬೀರಸಂದ್ರ ಗ್ರಾಮ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ–562110 (ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–29787455) ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/292/ಆಕಾರ್/2025–26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಸೂಲಿಕೆರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸೂ.ಗ್ರಾ.ಪಂ/19/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 22.04.2026

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಆಡಳಿತ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಸೂಲಿಕೆರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2026–27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವರ್ಗ–1/15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಯೋಜನೆ/ವಿವಿಧ ಯೋಜನೆಯಾಡಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಸಾಮಾಗ್ರಿ ಖರೀದಿ/ಸೇವೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	Tender No
01	Procurement of Man Power	RDPR/2026-27/SE3782

1)ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.04.2026 ರಿಂದ 06.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ** ವರೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಕೆಲಸದ ಹೆಸರು/ಪೂರೈಕೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿಯಮಗಳು/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೋಸೆಸ್ಸಿಂಗ್/ EMD ಫೀ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ **www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** . ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ.
ಸೂಲಿಕೆರೆ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ
ಕೆಂಗೇರಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು
ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಕಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯು/299/2026–27

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: **080-41209042**

Office of the Koppa Town Panchayath,
Koppa – 577126, Chikkamagaluru District
Ph: 08265-221024 / 08265-22635
Email: koppatownco@gmail.com Email: koppatown@yahoo.co.in
ಸಂ: ಪಪಂಕೊ/ಪ.ಪ್ರ/01/2025–26 Date: 07-04-2026

Tender Notice

Tenders are invited from eligible Class III and above contractors registered with the Public Works Department under the two-cover system on the e-procurement portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) for the following works sanctioned under the Enterprise Grant of Koppa Town Panchayath. Interested contractors may submit their tenders within the stipulated period. Further information and details can be obtained from the Technical Branch, Koppa Town Panchayath, Koppa.

Enterprises under the grant of Town Panchayath

Sl.No. 1. Item Detail: DMA/2025-26/OD/WORK_INDENT56180/Call-1 **Estimated Total Amount**: Rs. 74.84 Lakhs **EMD:** Rs. 1,50,000/-
Last date for submission of tender: 23-04-2026 at 17:00 hrs
Date & Time of Tender opening: 24-04-2026 at 17:10 hrs

Sd/- Administrative Officer, Sd/- Chief Officer,
Town Panchayath, Koppa
DIPR/ckm/26-27/13/ksmca/118

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Yelahanka Division, Bengaluru-560064.

No: BNCC/EE/YNK.D/KPPP/01/2026-27 Date: 22.04.2026

Invitation for Short Term Tender Notification (IFT) (Through GOK KPPP only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer Yelahanka Division BNCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Category
1.	Maintenance of drains by engaging Labour and Tractor in Raja Kempegowda Ward No.1 **(Others).** **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 20.00, EMD in ₹: 50,000/-.**
2.	Maintenance of drains by engaging Labour and Tractor in Aero city Ward No.2 **(Others).** **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 20.00, EMD in ₹: 50,000/-.**
3.	Maintenance of drains by engaging Labour and Tractor in Chowdeshwari Ward No.3 **(Others).** **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 20.00, EMD in ₹: 50,000/-.**
4.	Maintenance of drains by engaging Labour and Tractor in Nyayanga Badavane Ward No.4 **(Others).** **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 20.00, EMD in ₹: 50,000/-.**
5.	Maintenance of drains by engaging Labour and Tractor in Yelahanka Satellite Town Ward No.5 **(Others).** **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 20.00, EMD in ₹: 50,000/-.**
6.	Maintenance of drains by engaging Labour and Tractor in Doddabettahalli Ward No.6 **(Cat-II) (A).** **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 20.00, EMD in ₹: 25,000/-.**
7.	Maintenance of drains by engaging Labour and Tractor in Attur Ward No.7 **(SC).** **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 20.00, EMD in ₹: 25,000/-.**
8.	Repair and Maintenance of Footpaths in Raja Kempegowda Ward No.1 **(Others).** **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 25.00, EMD in ₹: 62,500/-**
9.	Repair and Maintenance of Footpaths in Aero City Ward No.2 **(Others).** **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 25.00, EMD in ₹: 62,500/-**
10.	Repair and Maintenance of Footpaths in Chowdeshwari Ward No.3 **(ST).** **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 25.00, EMD in ₹: 31,250/-**
11.	Repair and Maintenance of Footpaths in Nyayanga Badavane Ward No.4 **(Cat-I)** **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 25.00, EMD in ₹: 31,250/-**
12.	Repair and Maintenance of Footpaths in Yelahanka Satellite Town Ward No.5 **(SC).** **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 25.00, EMD in ₹: 31,250/-**
13.	Repair and Maintenance of Footpaths in Doddabettahalli Ward No.6 **(Others).** **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 25.00, EMD in ₹: 62,500/-**
14.	Repair and Maintenance of Foot paths in Attur Ward No.7 **(SC).** **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 25.00, EMD in ₹: 31,250/-**
15.	Establishment of Temporary Control Room for Monsoon period in 2026 in Yelahanka Old Town Sub-Division. **(Cat-II) (A).** **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 7.50, EMD in ₹: 9,375/-**
16.	Establishment of Temporary Control Room for Monsoon period in 2026 in Yelahanka Satellite town Sub Division. **(Others).** **Est. Cost in Lakhs:5.00, EMD in ₹: 12,500/-**
17.	Establishment of Temporary Control Room for Monsoon period in 2026 in Attur Sub division. **(Others).** **Est. Cost in Lakhs:5.00, EMD in ₹: 12,500/-**

Calendar of Events: (1) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders : **08-05-2026 at 4:00 p.m. (2)** Date & Time of Opening of Technical bid : **11-05-2026 after 4:00 p.m.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, BNCC.

QUICK READ

CBI custody extended in major bribery case

New Delhi

A Rouse Avenue court in New Delhi extended CBI custody of DGCA Deputy Director General Mudavath Devula and businessman Bharat Mathur by two days. The agency had sought more time to confront them with evidence in an alleged bribery case linked to drone import approvals. Officials said Rs 2.5 lakh was allegedly taken for clearing files, and earlier searches recovered cash and valuables. The court will produce the accused on Friday and allowed family meetings during custody. The investigation continues as CBI examines digital devices and other seized materials to trace wider links in the corruption network officials said probe.

Tribal families relocate amid water crisis Kerala

Malappuram

At least 24 tribal families from Plakkalchola in Malappuram have moved to the banks of the Kanjirappuzha river due to severe drinking water shortage. Residents said a dried forest stream left them with no option but to shift near the river through forest paths. They now live in temporary shelters on riverbanks, facing fear of wild animals like elephants and leopards at night. Officials have not provided a steady water supply despite repeated complaints every summer from the affected tribal community. Children's schooling and medical access are badly affected as families struggle to survive in harsh conditions daily life continues.

Kerala orders judicial probe into fireworks unit blast

DNA testing is being expedited to identify severely charred remains, with expert medical teams from neighbouring districts assisting in the process

THRISSUR

The Kerala government has ordered a judicial inquiry into the devastating explosion at a fireworks manufacturing unit in Mundathikode that left 13 people dead and several critically injured.

Announcing immediate relief measures on Wednesday, the state has sanctioned ₹14 lakh compensation to the families of the deceased and ₹2 lakh for the injured, while also committing to bear the full medical expenses of those undergoing treatment.

The relief announced will include Rs 10 lakh from the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund and Rs 4 lakh from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). The probe team will be headed by Justice (retired) C N Ramachandran Nair.

The explosion occurred at a unit preparing fireworks for the Thiruvambadi faction of the iconic Thrissur Pooram festival and triggered a series of blasts beginning around 3:30 pm on Tuesday, which continued for nearly two hours. The incident caused widespread panic in the area and resulted in extensive damage to nearby houses and structures.

Thrissur MP oversee probe

Forensic experts and dog squads did comb through the wreckage. Thrissur MP and Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Suresh Gopi, visited the site to oversee the probe. He explained that teams are currently working to identify any unburnt explosives that could still pose a danger to the local community. While the investigation is in its early stages, officials are focused on collecting chemical samples to determine the exact cause of the ignition.

The tragedy has drawn condolences from the highest levels of government. President Droupadi Murmu expressed her deep sadness over the loss of life, offering prayers for the families and the speedy recovery of those injured. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also condoled the mishap, announcing a compensation of Rs 2 lakh for the families of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for those hurt in the explosion.

Currently, 17 people are being treated for minor injuries, while five others remain in critical condition. As the community mourns, political leaders, including MP K.C. Venugopal, have called for increased financial support for the victims.

Local authorities are now reviewing safety protocols for fireworks storage across the state to prevent such a heartbreaking disaster from happening again during the festival season.

Justice demanded at candlelight vigil for Valte

Residents in Lamka held a candlelight vigil for late MLA Vungzagin Valte, demanding an NIA probe into the 2023 assault that led to his death

CHURACHANDPUR

Hundreds of residents gathered in Lamka for a somber candlelight vigil to honor late BJP MLA Vungzagin Valte.

The gathering, held at the Churachandpur Medical College, marked two months since the Thanlon representative passed away.

Participants used the occasion to call for a high-level investigation into the brutal 2023 assault that eventually led to his death.

Valte died on February 20, 2026, after a long battle with injuries sustained during a mob attack in Imphal three years ago. During that incident, the MLA and his driver were pulled from their vehicle and tortured. While Valte initially survived after months on a ventilator, his health never fully recovered. Leaders at the vigil alleged the attack was premeditated and criticized both the state and central governments for a lack of legal action.

Muanlian, a representative of the Zomi Coordination Committee, stated that the community feels a deep sense of anguish over the government's silence. The group is demanding a probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to identify those responsible for the violence. They also urged authorities to complete the various developmental projects Valte had started in his constituency before his life was cut short.

The vigil took place just before a planned 13-hour shutdown called by local organizations.

Protestors affirmed that they will continue to demonstrate through peaceful means until justice is served. For the people of Lamka, the evening was not just about mourning a leader, but about seeking accountability for a tragedy that shook the state.

Bribery: 3 PWD officials land in Lokayukta net

INDORE

The Special Police Establishment of Madhya Pradesh has arrested three officials from the Public Works Department (PWD) for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 2.5 lakh.

The high-profile bust took place in Indore after a local road contractor, Rajpal Singh Pawar, reported that the officers were demanding money to release his legitimate payments.

The accused have been identified as Executive Engineer Jaydev Gautam, Sub-Divisional Officer Tarun Kumar Jain, and Sub-Engineer Anshu Dubey.

According to police, the trio had demanded a total of Rs 3.5 lakh from Pawar. The contractor had recently finished a large project worth over Rs 4 crore, but his final bill of approximately Rs 30 lakh was being withheld by the officials.

During a carefully planned trap, the Lokayukta police caught Jaydev Gautam at his residence while he was accepting Rs 1.5 lakh. Simultaneously, another team caught Tarun Kumar Jain at the PWD office as he took Rs 1 lakh. The third official, Anshu Dubey, had reportedly asked for a bribe as well but refused to take the money during the sting because the amount offered was less than he had demanded.

Lokayukta Inspector Ashutosh Mithas confirmed that a case has been registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Authorities are now investigating the matter further to see if other officials were involved in the scheme. This incident has sent shockwaves through the department, highlighting the government's ongoing efforts to root out corruption within public offices and ensure fair treatment for local contractors.

7 convicted in Bengaluru prison terror case

NEW DELHI

A special court has sentenced seven men to seven years of rigorous imprisonment for their roles in a dangerous terror plot hatched inside a Bengaluru jail. The group includes T. Naseer, a known member of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) extremist group, who acted as the mastermind behind the radicalization of fellow inmates.

The case came to light in July 2023 when local police seized weapons and explosives from a group of criminals. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) later took over the probe, discovering that Naseer was using his time in the Parapanna Agrahara Central Prison to recruit and train other prisoners. The goal was to carry out terror attacks across India and organize a violent escape for Naseer while he was being moved to court.

All seven accused, including Syed Suhail Khan and Mohammed Faisal Rabbani, pleaded guilty to the charges. Along with their prison sentences, the court imposed a fine of Rs 48,000 on each individual. The charges included serious violations of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the Explosives Substances Act.

One of the men, Salman Khan, was recently caught and brought back to India from Rwanda to face trial. While seven people have now been punished, the NIA is still searching for a suspect named Junaid Ahmed, who remains on the run. Authorities stated that this conviction is a major victory in stopping the spread of extremist ideologies within the prison system and protecting national security.

ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

ಎಸ್.ಎನ್. ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, ಮೊದಲನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ನಗರ ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಠಾಣೆ ಎದುರು, 'ಡಿ' ಕ್ರಾಸ್,
ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ–561203. ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080–29562046

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DPA/TP/CLU/105/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.04.2026

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1961 ರ ಕಲಂ 14(ಎ) ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು **'ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ'** ವಲಯದಿಂದ **'ವಸತಿ'** ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಸದರಿ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಯ ಜಮೀನಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತವೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟವಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ **15 ದಿನಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯೊಳಗೆ** ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಲಿಖಿತವಾಗಿ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನಿಗದಿತ ಅವಧಿಯ ನಂತರ ಬರುವ ಯಾವುದೇ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ.	ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು	ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು	ಹೋಬಳಿ	ಗ್ರಾಮ	ಸ. ನಂ.	ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ (ಎ–ಗು)	ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಂತೆ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾದ ಭೂಉಪಯೋಗ	ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಕೋರಿರುವ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ
1	ಶ್ರೀ ಜ್ಞಾನೇಂದ್ರ ಪ್ರಸಾದ ಹೆಚ್.ಜಿ. ಬಿನ್ ಹೆಚ್. ಆರ್ ಗಂಗಾಧರಪ್ಪ	ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ	ಮಧುರೆ	ಜುನ್ನಸಂದ್ರ	121	3–05	ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ	ವಸತಿ

ಷರಾ:– ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾಪಿತ ಜಮೀನಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಸತಿ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸುವುದರಿಂದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ಕಾನೂನುಬದ್ಧವಾದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ನಡೆಯುವಾಗ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಕೂಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ದೊರಕುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಿಂದ ಸುತ್ತಮುತ್ತಲಿನ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಸಹಕಾರಿಯಾಗಲಿದೆ. ಯೋಜನಾ ಬದ್ಧವಾದ ವಿನ್ಯಾಸ ರಚನೆಯಿಂದ ಉತ್ತಮ ರಸ್ತೆ, ನಾಗರಿಕ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಜಾಗಗಳು, ಉದ್ಯಾನವನಗಳು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಉಪಯೋಗಕ್ಕೆ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂಬುದಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿದಾರರು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಹಿತಾಸಕ್ತಿ ಅಂಶವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸುತ್ತಾ, ಸದರಿ ಪ್ರದೇಶವನ್ನು **'ವ್ಯವಸಾಯ'** ವಲಯದಿಂದ **'ವಸತಿ'** ವಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಭೂ ಉಪಯೋಗ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಜಂಟಿ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಸದಸ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು,
ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ.

District Urban Development Cell, Deputy Commissioner Office, Hassan District.

Telephone No: 08172-234839 Email:pdhassandudc@gmail.com

No:Mun(2)CR/220/220/2025-26 Date:18-04-2026

: TENDER NOTIFICATION : e-proc No. DMA/2025-26/ RD/Work-Indent No:50202 Call-3

The Executive Engineer, District Urban Development Cell, Hassan Deputy Commissioner Office, Hassan District, Hassan invites tenders in two cover system using KW-2&3 document from class-1 contractors for CMSMTDP Nagarothana (Municipality) Phase-4 project Hassan District, Town Municipal Council, Sakaleshpur Package works as details below:- Sl. No.Indent Number 1)e-proc No. DMA/2025-26/ RD/ Work-Indent No:50202 Call-3 1.Description of Work Renovation of Commercial Complex near Old Bus Stand, Construction of Welcome Board to High Way, Sign Boards to Ward Areas, Development of Anganavadi Building in W.No.11, Renovation Of Library in W.No.7, Construction High Tech Bus Shelter near Old Bus Stand, Renovation Of Hemavathi Commercial Complex Building and Development of Park near Oxford School in W.No.12 and Construction of Anganawadi Building in W.No.14 in Sakaleshpura TMC limits (General) (Rs.155.26) 2.Drain works in ward 10 Manjunatha house lakkappa house muddu house shekar house ward 11 manjula raju house sweepers colony kadappa house ward 23 janaki house shridhar house annappa house puttaraju house ward 10 siddurappa house and in ward no.4,7,11,23 SCP (Rs.69.98) Tender Amount (Rs.in Lakhs) Rs.184.92 Interested contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender. Contractors can download the tender documents from the E-Procurement platform (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Tenders shall be submitted electronically at (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in). EMD and Tenders Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically Calendar of events & other information is as follows:- Calendar of Events and other information are as follows: 1.Period of Construction 06 Months 2.Earnest Money Deposit Rs.2.80 lakhs 3.Pre Bid Meeting Date:30-04-2026 @11.00 A.M 4.Last Date and time for tender queries/ Clarification Date:18-05-2026 @11.00 A.M 5.Last Date and time for receipt of tender Date:20-05-2026. upto 17.30 hrs 6.Date and time for Opening of Technical Bid Date:22-05-2026 at 11.00 AM 7.Date and time for Opening of Financial Bid Date: 01-06-2026 at 11.00 AM Any changes in the tender conditions and Postponement of calendar of events (if any) is only through e-Procurement portal and will not be published in any newspapers.

Sd/- Excutivew Engineer,
District Urban Development Cell, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೧/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/57/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

COURT REJECTS PLEA OVER COSTLY GAS CYLINDERS

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has refused to hear a petition claiming that cooking gas cylinders are being sold on the black market for as much as Rs 5,000. While the legal challenge highlighted a serious price hike, the court ruled that the government, not judges, must handle issues regarding the supply and cost of essential goods.

Advocate Rakesh Kumar Mittal filed the public interest plea, claiming that although a cylinder should cost around Rs 1,000, a severe shortage has allowed illegal sellers to skyrocket prices. He even pointed out that the High Court's own canteen recently struggled to get gas. Mittal also questioned why the government was continuing to export gas while Indian families were facing such a difficult domestic shortage.

Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia noted that the canteen's problem had been fixed and stated that the government is already working to manage the crisis. The bench explained that the judiciary cannot pass orders that are impossible to enforce, such as a total ban on hoarding. They further clarified that decisions regarding trade and exports are policy matters handled by the executive branch.

The court dismissed the petition but told Mittal he could take his complaints directly to the relevant government departments. Meanwhile, as tensions in West Asia cause global fuel concerns, the Indian Oil Corporation assured the public that there is currently no shortage of petrol or diesel in northern India. For now, the responsibility to stop black marketing remains with the government.

IAF jets turn highway into runway drills

SULTANPUR

Fighter jets of the Indian Air Force conducted emergency landing drills on the Purvanchal Expressway in Uttar Pradesh. The two-day exercise tested whether highways can be used as runways during war or emergencies. Aircraft like Sukhoi Su-30MKI, Jaguar jets, and a C-295 transport plane performed touch-and-go landings and full stops on the highway strip. A Mi-17 helicopter also dropped troops for ground training. Officials said the exercise shows the Air Force's readiness and ability to use civilian infrastructure for defence needs. The drill highlights rapid response capability and strengthens India's preparedness for future security challenges in real situations.

WETLAND FOR A REASON

'Shekha Jheel' named India's 99th Ramsar site

NEW DELHI

India has moved one step closer to a historic environmental milestone with the designation of Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary as a Ramsar site.

Located in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, the sanctuary is now officially recognized as a wetland of international importance. This addition marks the 12th such site in the state and the 99th for the entire country.

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav shared the news, highlighting the sanctuary's vital role in the global ecosystem. Shekha Jheel serves as a critical stopover for thousands of migratory birds traveling along the Central Asian Flyway. During the winter months, the waters are filled with rare species, including the Bar-headed Goose and the Painted Stork, making it a paradise for birdwatchers and nature lovers.

The Minister credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for India's successful efforts in restoring natural habitats. He noted that this global recognition does more than protect birds, it secures water resources and supports the livelihoods of local communities living near the lake. The announcement follows the recent addition of two other wetlands in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat to the prestigious list.

With 99 sites now recognized, India is on the verge of hitting a "century" of protected wetlands.

The government's commitment to conservation has gained significant international praise, positioning the country as a leader in climate security.

Minister Yadav encouraged citizens to visit the Aligarh sanctuary to witness its beauty firsthand and support the nation's growing mission to preserve its precious natural heritage.

Environmental milestone

- Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary serves as a crucial stopover on the Central Asian Flyway for migratory birds, including the Bar-headed Goose, Painted Stork, and various duck species during winter.
- The wetland supports 249 bird species, including 62 wetland-dependent species.
- Ramsar designation brings improved protection, enhances local livelihoods, and contributes to water and climate security.

QUICK READ

Fuel price surge turns medicines luxury Pakistan

PESHAWAR

Rising fuel prices in Pakistan are driving up the cost of essential goods, especially medicines, leaving many families under heavy financial pressure. In Peshawar and other cities, patients with chronic illnesses are struggling the most as insulin and other drugs have become far more expensive. Reports say insulin prices have nearly doubled in recent months. Other medicines, including for diabetes, fever, and cancer care, have also increased sharply. Citizens earning low incomes say treatment is now unaffordable. Pharmacies are accused of exploiting shortages, while weak regulation worsens the crisis, making healthcare difficult for ordinary people across the country every day.

Tibetan writer's health worsens in prison case

DHARAMSHALA

Two Tibetan writers are reported to have worsening health due to alleged denial of medical care by Chinese authorities. Gangkye Drubpa Kyab is suffering memory loss, vision problems, heart and kidney issues. Tsering Dolma is facing memory loss, heart disease and complications after alleged torture. Reports say prison medical rules are ignored. Locations are unclear due to transfers. Family visits remain restricted. Kyab was arrested in 2021 and sentenced to 14 years for separatism, with earlier detention in 2012. Dolma has been held since 2021, linked to 2008 protests and injuries. Concerns over prison treatment persist.

Indian naval ship boosts Sri Lanka maritime cooperation

COLOMBO

Indian Naval Ship INS Nireekshak arrived in Colombo, Sri Lanka, for Operational Turnaround and a training visit, aimed at strengthening maritime cooperation between the two neighbours, the Indian High Commission said. Sri Lankan Navy welcomed the ship at Colombo port with naval traditions. Commanded by Commander Sailesh Kumar Tyagi, the diving support vessel will conduct training with Sri Lanka Navy divers. Officials said the visit will improve skills, coordination, and friendship between both navies. Such joint training highlights growing trust and regular cooperation between India and Sri Lanka in maintaining maritime safety in the Indian Ocean region together.

Iran knocks on UN doors to free US-seized ship

Ambassador Iravani sent an urgent letter to UN, demanding the 'immediate and unconditional' release of the ship 'Touska', along with its crew and their families

NEW YORK

Iran has officially called on the United Nations (UN) to intervene after US forces captured its commercial vessel in the Sea of Oman.

Ambassador Amir Saeed Iravani sent an urgent letter to UN leadership, demanding the "immediate and unconditional" release of the ship, named the Touska, along with its crew and their families.

The Iranian envoy described the seizure, which occurred near Iran's coast, as a hostile and unlawful act of "maritime piracy." He claimed that U.S. forces used intimidation and reckless behavior that put the lives of civilians on board in danger. According to Iravani, the incident was not just a legal violation but a form of "psychological terror" against the sailors and their loved ones.

The timing of the seizure has added to the tension. Iravani argued that the move violates a ceasefire previously announced by U.S. President Donald Trump on April 7. He warned the Security Council that such actions represent a dangerous escalation that threatens the safety of vital global shipping routes and destabilizes an already fragile region.

Iran is now urging the UN to take decisive action by holding those responsible accountable and denouncing the attack. The letter emphasized that the seizure fits the definition of international aggression and urged the global body to press Washington for a swift resolution. As of now, the families of the crew remain in custody, sparking deep humanitarian concerns while the world.

Iran races to repair schools after conflict

TEHRAN

Iran has launched a massive recovery effort after a forty-day conflict left civilian infrastructure in ruins. Government ministers revealed that schools, bridges, and roads were heavily targeted, though officials insist these sites had no military purpose.

Education Minister Alireza Kazemi reported that 1,300 schools were damaged during the strikes. However, repair teams have worked quickly, already restoring 775 of those buildings. While most suffered minor damage, about twenty schools were completely destroyed, particularly in provinces.

UAE claims fin power amid regional conflict

WASHINGTON, DC

The United Arab Emirates has stepped forward to showcase its massive financial strength as regional tensions continue to rise. While thanking U.S. President Donald Trump for his offer of currency support, the UAE Embassy made it clear that their nation is far from needing any economic rescue.

To back up this claim, officials pointed to a staggering $2 trillion held in sovereign investment assets. Additionally, the UAE boasts foreign currency reserves of over $300 billion and a banking sector holding $1.5 trillion in deposits.

This financial shield comes at a critical time, as the ongoing standoff near the Strait of Hormuz has disrupted global oil trade and impacted major airlines like Emirates and Etihad.On the diplomatic front, President Trump announced an extension of the ceasefire with Iran. This decision followed a direct request from Pakistan's leadership to delay military action. Trump noted that while the "blockade" of Iranian ports will stay in place, he is giving Tehran time to submit a unified proposal for peace.

However, the gesture was not well-received by everyone.

In Tehran, government advisers dismissed the extension as a trick to buy time for a surprise attack.

They argued that a blockade is no different from a bombing and called for a military response. With previous peace talks in Islamabad failing.

Gunfire hits ship near Oman waters

LONDON

A container ship was badly damaged after being fired on by an Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps gunboat near the coast of Oman. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations confirmed the ship's bridge was hit by gunfire about 15 nautical miles northeast of the Omani shoreline. The captain reported no warning or radio contact before the attack, and the vessel's bridge suffered heavy damage but the crew remained safe. The UKMTO issued a warning urging ships in the area to stay alert and report any suspicious movement immediately. The incident follows rising tensions at sea after the United States intercepted an Iranian vessel called Touska for alleged blockade violations. Iran accused the United States of maritime piracy, while also restricting the Strait of Hormuz, affecting global shipping routes. The situation continues to raise concern as civilian ships face growing risks in the disputed waters. Authorities are monitoring the situation closely now.

Israel strikes Hezbollah members after ceasefire breach

TEL AVIV

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) confirmed that an airstrike killed two Hezbollah members in southern Lebanon.

Military officials stated the strike was a necessary response to a ceasefire violation that occurred in the Saluki region.

According to the IDF, two individuals crossed the "Forward Defence Line" on Tuesday and approached Israeli troops. The military described the pair as an "immediate threat" to soldiers stationed in the area. In response, the Israeli Air Force launched a targeted strike to "eliminate the terrorists" and remove the danger. Beyond this specific incident, the IDF noted that its forces are continuing to dismantle Hezbollah infrastructure and seize weapons caches across the region to prevent future attacks.

The clash comes just days into a ten-day ceasefire that began on April 16. To clarify the rules of the truce, the IDF recently released a map of the "Forward Defence Line," a zone deep within Lebanese territory where five Israeli divisions remain active. Defence Minister Israel Katz reinforced this position, stating that the military will use "full force" to protect any soldiers facing threats during the stand-down period.

While U.S. President Donald Trump has praised the temporary ceasefire as a vital step toward a lasting peace deal, the situation on the ground remains volatile. The IDF maintains that its massive military presence will remain south of the line until Hezbollah's frontline capabilities are fully neutralized. For now, the "Forward Defence Line" remains a tense boundary where any perceived movement can trigger a lethal response.

India-Britain strengthen ties for peace

LONDON

India and the United Kingdom have pledged to work closer together to tackle global threats and ensure a stable Indo-Pacific region. This commitment came during a historic visit by India's Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, who met with his British counterpart, Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Knighton, in London this week.

The two military leaders discussed a wide range of modern challenges, including cyber attacks and global trade issues. They emphasized that the world is changing fast, and both nations must use new technology to stay safe. A key goal of the visit is to move beyond just buying and selling weapons. Instead, India and the UK want to "co-design and co-produce" high-tech military equipment together. This approach aims to make both countries more self-reliant and their supply chains more secure.

General Chauhan also spent time meeting with British business leaders and government officials. He spoke about the massive transformation happening within the Indian military and the opportunities it creates for partnership. Beyond hardware, the talks focused on sharing intelligence and holding joint military exercises to keep the seas and skies open for everyone.

The visit also had moments of deep reflection. General Chauhan laid a wreath at the Memorial Gates to honor fallen soldiers, a gesture that highlighted the long, shared history between the two armies. As the first-ever visit by an Indian Chief of Defence Staff to the UK, this meeting marks a major milestone in building a safer, more prosperous future.

Indian ports evolving into global industrial powerhouses

SINGAPORE

India is reimagining its coastal landscape, turning traditional cargo gateways into sophisticated industrial and logistics hubs. Speaking at Singapore Maritime Week 2026, Shipping Secretary Vijay Kumar told a gathering of 200 global investors that the nation is decisively positioning itself as a cornerstone of the world's supply chain.

The transformation is fueled by a blend of public-private partnerships and the adoption of international operational standards. Kumar highlighted that India's port capacity has already doubled, but the government is now focused on the "next frontier", achieving world-class efficiency and becoming a premier destination for transshipment. "India is moving steadily toward sustaining long-term growth and integrating deeper into global value chains," Kumar explained. He emphasized that the shift isn't just about moving containers, it is about creating integrated ecosystems where manufacturing and transport coexist. By evolving into industrial hubs, these ports will attract significant foreign investment and provide a more seamless experience for international trade partners.

The Secretary's pitch in Singapore comes at a time when global businesses are looking for reliable, high-tech alternatives for their logistics needs.

Police smash armed robbery gang after shootout

HERAT

Police in Afghanistan have successfully dismantled a notorious gang of professional thieves following a violent midnight confrontation in Herat province.

The group had spent months terrorizing travelers and civilians along the busy highway connecting Herat and Ghor.

Security officials confirmed that the breakthrough came after a targeted operation in the Karukh district. For nearly four months, the armed robbers had been stopping vehicles at gunpoint to loot cash, mobile phones, and jewelry. During the final encounter, the suspects refused to surrender and opened fire on security forces.

In the ensuing clash, the thieves were wounded and captured. They are currently being treated under guard at Herat Regional Hospital.

Local victims shared harrowing stories of the gang's cruelty. One traveler, Mohammad Yousuf, described how the men forced him out of his vehicle, tied his hands, and beat him before stealing his ring and life savings. "They took everything I had," he said, recalling the terrifying roadside ordeal.

Ismatullah Raihan, the local police chief, stated that the arrest was the result of weeks of intelligence gathering and strategic checkpoints. Authorities emphasized that hundreds of criminals have been arrested in the province recently as part of a major security crackdown.

Najibullah Ali, a senior security official, reassured the public that mobile patrols are now operating day and night to keep the roads safe. He promised that the captured robbers would face strict judicial action, marking a significant victory for law and order in the region.

MASS DEPORTATION PUSH

Paraguay agrees to accept migrants from US

ASUNCION

Paraguay has officially agreed to accept non-citizen migrants deported from the United States as part of a new international arrangement.

The country's Foreign Ministry announced that an initial group of 25 Spanish-speaking individuals is scheduled to arrive.

This move makes Paraguay one of several nations participating in a "third-country" deportation system. Under this plan, the United States sends migrants to countries where they have no personal or family ties. The Paraguayan government stated that each case was checked individually to ensure the process follows national and international laws. They also clarified that these specific migrants do not have any active asylum applications pending in the U.S.

The program is part of a broader push by the Trump administration to manage immigration. To make these deals work, the U.S. has reportedly provided millions of dollars in financial incentives to partner nations. Other countries, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, and even nations in Africa, have already signed similar agreements to house or process deportees.

While US Embassy official Robert Alter praised the deal as a sign of strong friendship between the two nations, the policy remains controversial. Human rights groups have expressed concern, suggesting that the threat of being sent to a third country is being used to scare migrants.

However, officials insist the goal is to create a safe and orderly path for individuals to eventually return to their original home countries.

Al Nassr weigh historic move to promote Ronaldo Jr to senior squad

Teen sensation impresses in youth ranks, could join father next season

RIYADH

Al Nassr are reportedly considering promoting Cristiano Ronaldo Jr. to their senior squad, a move that could see him play alongside his father, Cristiano Ronaldo, in a rare footballing milestone.

The 15-year-old forward has caught the attention of club officials with his performances in the youth setup and is being evaluated for a potential step up ahead of the next season. If approved, the promotion would mark a significant leap from youth football to the highly competitive Saudi Pro League.

Ronaldo Jr.'s development has followed a unique global pathway, having trained in elite academies associated with Real Madrid, Juventus and Manchester United before continuing his progress in Saudi Arabia. His exposure to top-tier youth systems has been seen as a key factor in his rapid growth.

Reports suggest the youngster has an impressive scoring record, including prolific numbers during his early years in Europe and continued success with Al Nassr's youth teams. However, stepping into senior professional football would test not only his technical ability but also his physical and mental readiness.

The prospect of a father-son pairing has added intrigue, with Ronaldo, now 41, previously expressing his desire to share the pitch with his son. Such a moment would be a rarity in elite football and a significant milestone in the sport's history.

Club officials are expected to assess Ronaldo Jr.'s readiness at the end of the current season before making a final decision. They are likely to weigh the long-term benefits of gradual development against the excitement surrounding an early promotion.

Meanwhile, Ronaldo continues to shine at the highest level, recently moving closer to the 1,000-goal milestone with his 969th career goal in a dominant continental performance.

If the move materialises, it could mark the beginning of a new chapter for both player and club, blending legacy with emerging talent.

Lens storm into French Cup final with dominant win over Toulouse

PARIS

Historic opportunity beckons as Lens chase first-ever French Cup triumph

RC Lens kept their dream alive of lifting the Coupe de France for the first time with an emphatic 4–1 victory over Toulouse FC in the semi-final.

In front of a charged atmosphere at Stade Bollaert-Delelis, Lens made a flying start when Florian Thauvin converted an early penalty after being fouled inside the box. The hosts quickly built momentum, with Allan Saint-Maximin doubling the lead through a powerful strike from the edge of the area.

Toulouse briefly threatened a comeback when Santiago Hidalgo capitalised on a defensive lapse to reduce the deficit. However, Lens responded decisively, restoring their two-goal cushion through Matthieu Udol, who finished from close range.

The hosts sealed the contest in the second half when Adrien Thomasson added a fourth goal, sparking wild celebrations among the home supporters. At the final whistle, fans flooded the pitch to celebrate Lens reaching their first French Cup final since 1998.

Managed by Pierre Sage, Lens will now face either RC Strasbourg Alsace or OGC Nice in the final scheduled for May 22.

Despite their long history spanning over a century, Lens have never won the prestigious domestic cup, having finished runners-up on three occasions. This latest victory puts them within touching distance of a historic breakthrough.

Sage, however, insisted that reaching the final alone is not enough. "I'm already thinking about the final. Getting there without winning is not what people deserve. The journey has been good, but we want to finish it," he said.

With confidence high and momentum on their side, Lens now stand just one win away from rewriting their history and securing a long-awaited major trophy.

INDIA WRESTLING REVAMP: WFI ROPES IN FULL PANEL OF FOREIGN COACHES

NEW DELHI

In a significant move aimed at strengthening India's medal prospects, the Wrestling Federation of India has appointed a full panel of foreign coaches along with a High Performance Director (HPD) for the national camps.

The federation has brought in Emzarios Shako Bentinidis for freestyle, Gogi Koguashvili for Greco-Roman, and Kosei Akaishi for women's wrestling. Additionally, Ian Butler has been appointed as HPD. All four are expected to join from May 1, each earning a monthly salary of $7000.

The appointments, finalised in consultation with the Sports Authority of India, signal a return to overseas expertise after several years. The HPD will coordinate between men's and women's camps in Lucknow and Delhi, ensuring alignment between foreign specialists and Indian coaches.

Bentinidis is a familiar name in Indian wrestling, having previously worked with Olympic medallist Bajrang Punia and contributing to the development of wrestlers like Jitender and Sandeep Mann. His understanding of the Indian system is expected to ease integration.

Koguashvili, a former world champion and Olympic medallist, brings vast experience and tactical discipline to Greco-Roman wrestling, an area where India has struggled for consistent global success. Meanwhile, Akaishi, who has been associated with Japan's highly successful women's programme, is known for his emphasis on technique and mat discipline.

To address language barriers, an interpreter will assist Akaishi during training sessions. Butler's role as HPD will focus on athlete monitoring, planning, and bridging the gap between coaching inputs and competitive performance.

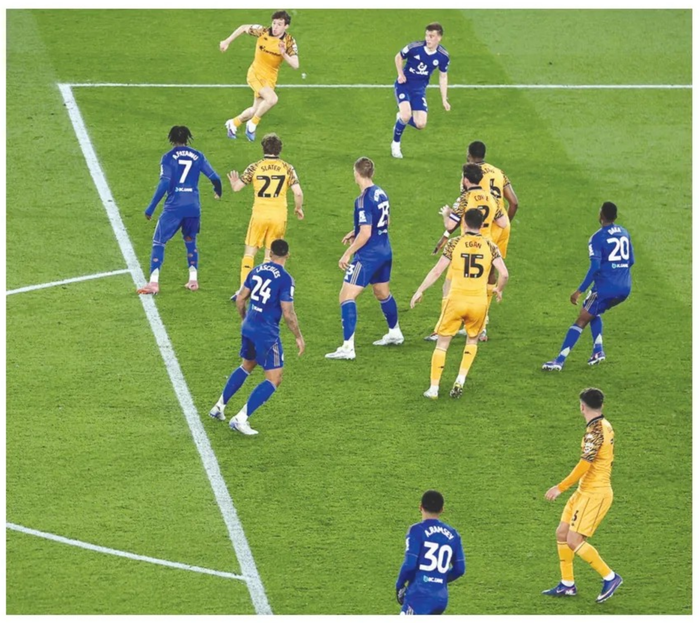
This marks the first time since 2019-20 that India has engaged a complete set of foreign wrestling coaches. Previous stints had ended on a turbulent note, prompting a more collaborative and structured approach this time.

WFI officials believe the inclusion of global expertise, combined with domestic coaching strength, will enhance technical standards and prepare Indian wrestlers more effectively for upcoming international events, including the Asian Games and the 2028 Olympics.

Former champions suffer historic fall, marking decade since Premier League glory

Leicester relegated to third tier after dramatic draw with Hull

LONDON



Leicester City were relegated to the third tier of English football after a 2-2 draw against Hull City, sealing a stunning fall from grace for the former Premier League champions.

Needing a victory to keep their survival hopes alive, Leicester faltered at the King Power Stadium as Oli McBurnie struck a decisive second-half equaliser for Hull. The result leaves the Foxes seven points adrift of safety with only two games remaining, confirming their drop to League One for just the second time in their history.

Hull had taken the lead early through Liam Millar, putting pressure on the hosts. Leicester responded in the second half when James Justin converted a penalty, before Luke Thomas briefly reignited hope by putting them ahead. However, McBurnie's 63rd-minute strike extinguished any chance of a late escape.

Manager Gary Rowett admitted the club must confront the harsh reality of their decline. "This is a painful moment, but one we have to learn from. You don't get relegated in a few games—it reflects an entire season," he said.

The relegation marks a dramatic downturn for a club that stunned the football world by winning the Premier League title in 2016 under Claudio Ranieri. That fairytale triumph, achieved against 5,000-1 odds, remains one of the sport's greatest stories. Leicester went on to reach the UEFA Champions League quarter-finals and lifted the FA Cup in 2021, but those highs now feel distant.

A series of managerial changes, financial issues—including a points deduction for breaching spending rules—and squad instability have contributed to the club's struggles. The departure of key figures like Jamie Vardy marked the end of an era, while inconsistent performances hastened their decline.

This is Leicester's third relegation in four seasons, having already dropped out of the top flight in 2023 and 2025. Once a symbol of underdog success, the club now faces the daunting challenge of rebuilding from League One.

Elsewhere, Coventry City secured the Championship title, while Frank Lampard guided his side back to the Premier League, adding further intrigue to an eventful season.

Brighton thrash Chelsea to deepen crisis under Rosenior

LONDON

Brighton & Hove Albion delivered a crushing 3-0 victory over Chelsea, piling further pressure on manager Liam Rosenior as the London club's season continues to unravel.

Chelsea's dismal run showed no signs of improvement, with the Blues registering their fifth consecutive league defeat without scoring—an unwanted record not seen since 1912. The loss leaves them languishing in seventh place, seven points adrift of the top five in the Premier League standings.

Brighton seized control early at the Amex Stadium, taking the lead in just the third minute through Ferdi Kadioglu, who capitalised on poor defending from a corner delivered by Pascal Gross. The hosts continued to dominate proceedings, exposing Chelsea's fragile backline and lack of cohesion.

Despite a tactical switch to a back five, Rosenior's side struggled to contain Brighton's attacking intent. Jack Hinshelwood doubled the lead in the second half after a swift counter-attack orchestrated by Georginio Rutter, leaving Chelsea chasing shadows.

The visitors offered little resistance, failing to register a meaningful attacking threat for long periods. Their frustrations grew as fans voiced anger, chanting against the club's ownership and demanding a return to former standards.

Brighton sealed the emphatic win in stoppage time when Danny Welbeck fired home from close range following a precise assist by Maxim De Cuyper.

Chelsea's alarming slump now includes seven defeats in their last eight matches across competitions, raising serious doubts about their chances of securing European football next season.

Taekwondo athlete alleges bias, says officials derailing Asian Games dream

NEW DELHI

Indian taekwondo athlete Vaishnave has alleged that administrative decisions are jeopardising her chances of representing the country at the upcoming Asian Games, raising serious concerns over the selection process.

The reigning National Games gold medallist in the under-46kg category, Vaishnave is the only Indian female athlete to have reached the quarterfinals at last year's Senior World Championships. Despite her credentials, she claims she has been repeatedly denied opportunities to compete in crucial selection trials.

At the centre of the controversy is the refusal by India Taekwondo to grant her a wildcard entry in the 49kg category, an Olympic weight division. The trials for the Asian Championships double as qualification events for the Asian Games, making her exclusion particularly significant.

Vaishnave's troubles began when she missed the Uttar Pradesh State Championships due to participation in the Under-21 World Championships in Nairobi. This absence reportedly led to her being barred from the Federation Cup, a key selection event. She also pointed to a conflict of interest, noting that a state official involved in selection processes held multiple roles within the federation.

After suffering a nose injury earlier this year and undergoing surgery, Vaishnave recovered and sought to re-enter the selection circuit. However, she alleges that despite medical clearance, she was denied participation in subsequent trials held in Pune and Bengaluru. She even travelled to the Bengaluru venue but was not allowed to compete.

"I only want a fair chance to prove myself.

Maradona's daughter slams doctor during negligence trial over football icon's death

BUENOS AIRES

The daughter of football legend Diego Maradona launched a scathing attack on his former doctor during an ongoing negligence trial examining the circumstances surrounding his death in 2020.

Testifying in a court in San Isidro, Gianinna Maradona criticised neurosurgeon Leopoldo Luque, who was considered her father's primary physician. She expressed anger over his alleged denial of responsibility, saying his public statements contradicted his role in overseeing the football icon's treatment.

"I heard him say he wasn't my father's doctor, and that makes me very angry," Gianinna told the court, underscoring the emotional intensity surrounding the case.

The trial involves seven medical professionals accused of failing to provide adequate care during Maradona's final weeks. The Argentine great died at the age of 60 from cardiac arrest while recovering at home after surgery for a brain blood clot. Prosecutors allege that the medical team neglected warning signs and did not ensure proper monitoring, contributing to his deteriorating condition.

The case has resumed after a mistrial last year, when a judge stepped down amid controversy linked to a documentary about the proceedings. Those on trial, including Luque, psychiatrist Agustina Cosachov and psychologist Carlos Díaz, deny the charges of culpable homicide, which is comparable to involuntary manslaughter.

Gianinna argued that the medical team was responsible for decisions regarding Maradona's home care, alleging that his health declined "day by day" without adequate intervention. The defence, however, has sought to shift part of the responsibility onto Maradona's family, claiming they failed to act swiftly enough during his health crisis.

Maradona, widely regarded as one of football's greatest players, continues to command immense public attention even after his death.

QUICK READ

ONGC cancels jack-up rig tender over pricing concerns

NEW DELHI

State-run ONGC has cancelled a recent tender for hiring jack-up rigs after identifying pricing anomalies and possible collusive bidding. The company said bids showed an unusual rise of about 60 per cent, with day rates increasing from $35,606 to $56,195 within nine months, which it deemed inconsistent with competitive market trends. ONGC stated that as a public procurer it must ensure transparency, fair competition and prudent use of public funds. The decision was taken to protect procurement integrity and prevent cartelisation risks. It clarified that the cancellation was based solely on pricing reasonableness and industry conditions, without external influence. Following announcement, ONGC shares rose 0.68 per cent on NSE.

Rupee slips near 94 level on global worries

MUMBAI

The rupee weakened for the third consecutive session, falling 39 paise to close at 93.83 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday. It briefly touched an intraday low of 93.87, edging close to the 94-mark seen in March for the first time. Dealers attributed the decline to rising geopolitical uncertainty around US-Iran peace talks, which revived concerns over West Asia tensions and pushed crude oil prices higher. Additional pressure came from sustained foreign portfolio outflows and weak sentiment in domestic equity markets. The rupee opened at 93.69 and remained under pressure throughout the trading session, forex traders said.

Amazon seizes 15 million counterfeit products globally

NEW DELHI

Amazon said it blocked hundreds of millions of suspected fake reviews and seized over 15 million counterfeit products globally in 2025, according to its inaugural Trustworthy Shopping Experience Report. It said it is using advanced artificial intelligence and machine learning to detect organised retail crime, cybercrime, and unsafe products. Legal actions in 2025 led to shutdown of more than 100 websites involved in fake reviews and scams targeting its marketplace. Amazon said it remains committed to improving trust, protecting customers, and strengthening enforcement against counterfeit sellers across global operations while expanding AI-driven monitoring systems and partnerships.

NIFTY, SENSEX fall as IT crude pressures markets

Indian markets declined sharply as IT stocks weakened and rising crude oil prices triggered broad-based selling pressure across sectors.

MUMBAI

The Indian equity markets ended sharply lower on Wednesday as selling pressure in IT stocks and concerns over rising crude oil prices weighed heavily on investor sentiment.

The Nifty 50 declined 198 points, while the BSE Sensex fell 756 points, reflecting broad-based weakness across sectors, particularly in technology and energy-sensitive stocks.

Market participants said the decline was largely driven by profit booking in heavyweight IT companies amid weak global cues and concerns about slowing demand in key export markets. Rising crude oil prices further added to inflationary worries, raising fears of higher input costs for companies and potential pressure on corporate margins.

IT stocks were among the biggest drags on the benchmarks, as investors reacted to subdued earnings outlooks and cautious guidance from global technology clients. Energy and oil-import-dependent sectors also faced selling pressure due to the surge in crude prices in international markets.

Broader markets mirrored the weakness, with mid-cap and small-cap indices also ending in negative territory. Sentiment remained cautious throughout the trading session, with investors closely tracking global economic indicators and geopolitical developments affecting commodity prices.

Analysts noted that volatility may persist in the near term as markets adjust to mixed corporate earnings, fluctuating crude trends, and uncertainty around global interest rate trajectories. However, they added that long-term domestic growth fundamentals remain intact, supported by steady consumption and infrastructure spending. Overall, the session highlighted the market's sensitivity to external factors, particularly energy prices and global demand signals, which continue to influence short-term direction.

FACT-FILE

- Markets fall on IT, crude pressure
- Nifty down 198, Sensex 756 points
- IT stocks drag indices lower
- Rising crude fuels inflation concerns
- Broader markets also end weak

DPIIT eases rules to boost supply chains

NEW DELHI

DPIIT introduces regulatory relaxations to simplify compliance, improve logistics efficiency, reduce costs, and strengthen India's industrial supply chains and manufacturing competitiveness.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has introduced a set of multi-sectoral regulatory relaxations aimed at strengthening industrial supply chains and improving ease of doing business across key manufacturing and logistics sectors in India.

The initiative is designed to reduce compliance burdens, streamline approvals, and enhance operational efficiency for industries involved in production, storage, and distribution. Officials said the reforms are intended to address long-standing bottlenecks that impact supply chain resilience, particularly in sectors such as manufacturing, infrastructure, and logistics.

According to the department, the new measures focus on simplifying regulatory procedures, removing redundant requirements, and improving coordination between central and state-level authorities. This is expected to accelerate project implementation timelines and reduce costs for businesses operating in critical industrial segments.

The reforms also aim to support domestic manufacturing under the broader vision of boosting self-reliance and strengthening India's position in global supply chains. By easing regulatory friction, the government hopes to attract greater private investment and improve competitiveness of Indian industries in international markets.

DPIIT has emphasised that the changes are part of an ongoing effort to create a more predictable and investor-friendly regulatory environment. Stakeholder consultations were undertaken to identify key pain points across sectors, and the latest relaxations reflect industry feedback.

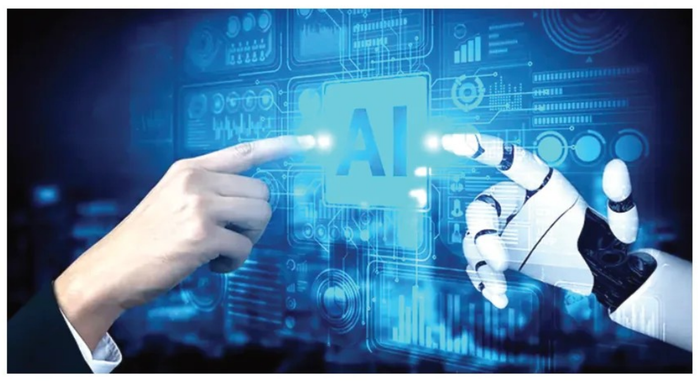
The department also highlighted that improved supply chain efficiency is essential for sustaining industrial growth, especially in a rapidly evolving global trade environment. Enhanced logistics coordination, faster clearances, and simplified compliance norms are expected to benefit both large enterprises and small and medium businesses.

Overall, the initiative is seen as a significant step toward modernising India's industrial ecosystem and reinforcing the country's manufacturing and supply chain capabilities.

India's green sector is rapidly expanding, with rising demand for tech-skilled professionals creating significant talent shortages nationwide.

Green jobs boom demands tech skilled workforce

NEW DELHI



India's green economy is rapidly evolving, with nearly 70% of new roles now requiring technology skills, driven by the convergence of Artificial Intelligence and sustainability, according to a report by NLB Services.

The report estimates that the sector could generate 7.29 million jobs by FY28, with an additional 1.2–1.5 million roles expected in FY27 alone. However, a widening talent gap is emerging as demand for skilled professionals grows at 15–20 per cent annually, while the supply pipeline expands at just 6–8 per cent. This mismatch is expected to result in a shortfall of 1.5–2 million qualified workers.

Specialised roles remain particularly difficult to fill, with 20–25% of positions in areas such as battery analytics, hydrogen engineering, and ESG data science currently vacant. The shift toward automation is also transforming the workforce by reducing repetitive, low-skill jobs while increasing demand for high-value, tech-driven roles.

Positions such as renewable energy engineers, EV and powertrain engineers, battery lifecycle and recycling specialists, ESG analysts, and sustainability data experts are witnessing strong demand across both metropolitan and emerging cities. New-age roles including AI and machine learning engineers focused on energy optimisation and carbon analytics are expected to grow significantly in the coming years.

Rising demand is also pushing up salaries. Entry-level roles are projected to see a 12–15% rise in compensation, while mid-level and senior professionals could see hikes of 18–22% and 25–30%, respectively, reflecting a growing "green premium" in the job market.

Maharashtra scooters Q4 profit crashes 92%

MUMBAI

Shares and earnings of Maharashtra Scooters Limited came under pressure as the company reported a steep 92.23 per cent year-on-year decline in net profit for the March quarter of FY26. Profit dropped to Rs 4.01 crore, compared to Rs 51.63 crore in the same period last year, reflecting a sharp contraction in overall profitability.

The decline came despite relatively stable income. Total income for the quarter slipped marginally by 3.55 per cent to Rs 6.51 crore, indicating that reduced earnings were not primarily driven by top-line weakness but by other operational factors.

Profit before tax also witnessed a significant fall, declining 91.20 per cent to Rs 5.46 crore from Rs 62.05 crore a year earlier. The company's regulatory filing highlighted that while expenses reduced considerably, it was not sufficient to offset the sharp drop in income from investments.

Total expenses fell 55.88 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1.05 crore. However, employee benefit expenses surged sharply by nearly 340 per cent to Rs 0.22 crore, partially negating the gains from lower overall expenditure. Other expenses declined by 41.13 per cent to Rs 0.83 crore during the quarter.

Despite weak financial performance, the company announced a generous shareholder payout. The board recommended a final dividend of Rs 60 per share for FY26, subject to shareholder approval at the upcoming AGM.

L&T signs green ammonia supply deal with Japan

NEW DELHI

Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T) has signed a long-term agreement through its subsidiary L&T Energy Green Tech Limited to supply green ammonia to Japan's ITOCHU Corporation.

The deal marks a major step in expanding India's clean energy export capabilities and strengthening global green fuel supply chains.

Under the agreement, L&T will supply around three lakh tonnes of green ammonia annually from its proposed production facility at Kandla in Gujarat. The contract is structured on a long-term take-or-pay basis, ensuring assured demand for the producer and stable supply for the buyer.

ITOCHU plans to use the green ammonia for bunkering applications in Singapore and other maritime hubs, supporting its broader strategy to develop a global green ammonia ecosystem along key shipping routes. The fuel is seen as a critical solution for decarbonising the shipping industry.

Green ammonia is produced by combining hydrogen generated from renewable energy-based water electrolysis with nitrogen extracted from the air, making it a low-carbon alternative to conventional marine fuels. The initiative aligns with global efforts to reduce emissions in hard-to-abate sectors like shipping. The partnership builds on a Joint Development Agreement signed earlier and reflects a shift from project development to securing long-term commercial demand. L&T stated that the agreement strengthens the financial and operational foundation of its green energy business.

L&T Energy GreenTech continues to focus on green hydrogen and related derivatives, including large-scale production facilities and electrolyser manufacturing. Meanwhile, ITOCHU, a major Japanese trading house, operates across energy, metals, chemicals, and logistics sectors globally, reinforcing its push toward sustainable energy investments.

India realty inflows hit record $5.1 billion

NEW DELHI

India's real estate sector witnessed record-breaking capital inflows of USD 5.1 billion during the January–March 2026 quarter, according to a CBRE report, reflecting strong investor confidence and sectoral resilience.

This marks a significant 72% increase compared to USD 2.9 billion recorded in the same period last year, and a 53% rise over the previous quarter, making it the highest-ever quarterly inflow.

The surge was primarily driven by domestic investors, who contributed about 96% of the total investments, underscoring growing local confidence even amid global economic uncertainties. Developers accounted for the largest share of these inflows, followed by Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), which played a crucial role in channeling funds into stable, income-generating assets.

Key metropolitan cities such as Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Delhi-NCR dominated the investment landscape, together accounting for nearly 65% of the total inflows. Office assets remained the most preferred segment, attracting substantial capital due to steady demand and long-term leasing prospects. Additionally, land and development site acquisitions saw notable traction, indicating optimism about future growth.

The report highlights a broader shift towards institutionalisation in India's real estate market, with REIT participation signaling increasing maturity and transparency in the sector. Strong domestic liquidity, improving economic fundamentals, and sustained demand across commercial real estate continue to support this growth trajectory.

Overall, the record inflows reflect a robust outlook for India's real estate sector, positioning it as a key investment destination despite ongoing global challenges and market uncertainties.

BDA invites banks for ₹1,500 crore deposits

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) has invited online tenders from nationalised and scheduled banks to place fixed deposits worth ₹1,500 crore for the financial year 2025–26.

According to an official press release, banks are required to submit their interest rate proposals through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.

The move aims to ensure safe and effective management of the authority's surplus funds.

Eligible banks have been asked to submit their proposals by 4:00 PM on April 24, 2026.

Late submissions will not be considered.

The announcement was issued from the BDA office located on T Chowdayya Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru.

Officials said the process is part of routine financial management and investment planning for the authority.

STOCK FALL

HCL Tech shares tumble 10% on weak outlook

MUMBAI

Shares of HCL Technologies fell sharply by over 10% on Wednesday, hitting Rs 1,289 on the NSE, after the company reported weaker-than-expected quarterly earnings and issued a subdued growth outlook.

The decline reflects rising investor concerns over slowing demand and margin pressures in the IT services sector.

The sell-off followed multiple brokerage downgrades and target price cuts. Analysts flagged weak revenue growth, cautious forward guidance, and limited visibility on demand recovery as key concerns impacting sentiment.

In its earnings report, HCL Tech projected FY27 revenue growth of just 1–4% year-on-year in constant currency terms. This comes after the company slightly missed its FY26 guidance, reporting 3.9% growth versus its earlier forecast of 4–4.5%. The services segment outlook also remained soft, with expected growth of 1.5–4.5%, below the 4.8% achieved in FY26.

For the March quarter, revenue stood at $3.7 billion, declining 3.3% sequentially in constant currency and missing market expectations.

The weak performance led to a significant erosion in market value, with the company's capitalisation dropping by around Rs 38,000 crore to approximately Rs 3.53 lakh crore.

Management attributed the slowdown to reduced discretionary spending by key US telecom clients, cancellation of SAP-related projects, and sector-specific challenges in retail and manufacturing. Additionally, the company highlighted weaker demand in Europe and warned of a 200–300 basis point deflationary impact from artificial intelligence on traditional IT services.

Brokerages, including Jefferies and Citi, have taken a cautious stance, citing slowing growth and limited near-term catalysts.

Abhishek ton powers Hyderabad; Pujara hails 'special talent'

IPL 2026

HYDERABAD

Cheteshwar Pujara heaped rich praise on Abhishek Sharma after the young opener's scintillating century powered Sunrisers Hyderabad to a commanding win over Delhi Capitals in the ongoing Indian Premier League.

described Abhishek as a "special talent," highlighting the ease and authority with which he compiles big scores. He pointed out that this was Abhishek's second IPL century and his first of the season, adding that such innings often prove decisive for Hyderabad.

"Abhishek makes centuries look easy. His runs are crucial because they frequently translate into wins for SRH," Pujara said, underlining the opener's growing influence at the top of the order.

Abhishek delivered a breathtaking performance, remaining unbeaten on 135 off 68 balls. His knock, studded with nine boundaries and ten towering sixes, saw him reach his century in just 47 deliveries. The left-hander's aggressive yet composed innings propelled Hyderabad to a formidable total of 242 for 2, putting the opposition under immense pressure.

The innings also marked a significant milestone in T20 cricket. Abhishek registered his ninth century in the format, drawing level with Virat Kohli among Indian players. On the global list, Chris Gayle leads with 22 T20 centuries, followed by Babar Azam (12) and David Warner (10).

Defending a daunting target of 243, Hyderabad completed a convincing 47-run victory. Eshan Malinga starred with the ball, claiming four wickets to cap off a dominant all-round performance and seal an emphatic win for his side.

With this performance, Abhishek has further cemented his reputation as one of the most exciting young talents in the league, capable of turning matches single-handedly with his explosive batting.

Young opener dazzles with fearless strokeplay, anchoring Hyderabad's emphatic victory

Finch questions Axar's tactics after Delhi's defeat to Hyderabad

DELHI

Aaron Finch has strongly criticised Axar Patel for questionable bowling decisions during Delhi Capitals defeat to Sunrisers Hyderabad in the ongoing Indian Premier League.

Finch said the decision to bowl part-timer Nitish Rana for his full quota made little sense, especially when frontline spinners were underutilised. Rana conceded 55 runs in four overs, proving costly in a match where Hyderabad piled up a massive total.

Finch pointed out that Axar and Kuldeep Yadav—Delhi's primary spin options—bowled just two overs each, conceding a combined 53 runs. "We have been scratching our heads. Your premier spin bowlers bowled only four overs between them, while a part-time offspinner completed his quota. That makes no sense," Finch remarked.

He further questioned Axar's reluctance to back himself in pressure situations, particularly against left-handers. Finch noted that as captain and a senior international player, Axar should have taken greater responsibility. "He is a double World Cup winner and one of India's core bowlers. Not trusting himself under pressure says a lot about his mindset," Finch added.

Former skipper criticises bowling choices as Delhi falters in high-scoring clash

The criticism came after a dominant performance by Hyderabad, led by Abhishek Sharma, who smashed an unbeaten 135 off 68 balls. His explosive innings powered SRH to 244/2, with valuable contributions from Travis Head, Ishan Kishan and Heinrich Klaasen.

In reply, Delhi showed brief promise through KL Rahul and Rana, who added 86 runs after an early setback. However, regular wickets derailed the chase, with Eshan Malinga starring with a four-wicket haul. Harsh Dubey and Sakib Hussain provided crucial support as Delhi collapsed to 195/9.

The defeat leaves Delhi searching for answers, while Hyderabad continue to build momentum in the tournament with a balanced and confident performance.

Veteran returns to action, raising anticipation ahead of blockbuster clash Thursday

Dhoni set for IPL 2026 debut as CSK weigh key changes

CHENNAI

MS Dhoni is set to make his much-awaited debut in the ongoing Indian Premier League season as Chennai Super Kings prepare for a high-profile clash against Mumbai Indians.

The veteran wicketkeeper-batter, fondly known as "Thala," is expected to return behind the stumps after recovering from a calf injury that kept him out of the opening phase of the tournament. His comeback is likely to impact team combination, with Sanju Samson expected to either shift to a fielding role or be used as an impact substitute.

Former CSK teammate Ravichandran Ashwin confirmed Dhoni's fitness, expressing confidence that the seasoned campaigner will feature in the upcoming match. Ashwin noted that seeing Dhoni actively keeping wickets in training was a strong indicator of his readiness. "I've never seen him keep in the nets before. That clearly shows he is prepared to take up wicketkeeping duties again," he said.

Dhoni was recently spotted during an intense training session, comfortably facing deliveries from pacers Matt Henry and Jamie Overton. Observers reported no visible discomfort, suggesting that he has fully recovered from the injury that initially required a two-week rehabilitation but sidelined him for nearly 25 days.

While Dhoni's return boosts morale, CSK continue to deal with setbacks. Key players Khaleel Ahmed and Ayush Mhatre have been ruled out for the remainder of the season due to injuries, leaving the team yet to announce replacements.

Meanwhile, Mumbai Indians have also received a timely boost, with all-rounder Will Jacks returning to training and likely to be available for selection.

With Dhoni's comeback adding fresh intrigue, the upcoming clash promises to be a thrilling contest between two of the league's most successful franchises.

Shafali rises in ICC rankings as Mandhana slips after SA series

NEW DELHI

Shafali Verma climbed two places to sixth in the ICC Women's T20I Batting Rankings following her impressive half-century against South Africa women's cricket team in the ongoing series.

The explosive opener scored a brisk 57 off 38 balls in the second T20I in Durban, showcasing her aggressive intent at the top of the order. However, her effort could not prevent India women's cricket team from slipping to an eight-wicket defeat, as the hosts took a 2-0 lead in the five-match series. In the opening game, Shafali had also contributed a steady 34, underlining her consistency despite the team's struggles.

In contrast, vice-captain Smriti Mandhana dropped one spot to fourth after a disappointing run in the first two matches, managing scores of just 13 and 12. She has been overtaken by Hayley Matthews, who now occupies the third position.

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur provided a positive note, climbing two places to 11th after her unbeaten 47 in the series opener. Meanwhile, Jemimah Rodrigues slipped four spots to 14th following a subdued run with the bat. Among South African players, captain Laura Wolvaardt retained her fifth position after a solid half-century in the second match. Her teammates Annerie Dercksen and Sune Luus registered significant gains, climbing to 33rd and 35th respectively after notable performances.

India's bowlers, however, experienced a dip in the rankings. Deepti Sharma fell two places to fifth, while Renuka Singh Thakur dropped to ninth. Arundhati Reddy slipped out of the top 10, moving down to 12th.

Suryakumar's slump puts spotlight on Iyer, Patidar for T20 spots

BENGALURU

A prolonged dip in form for Suryakumar Yadav has opened the door for fresh contenders like Shreyas Iyer and Rajat Patidar in India's T20 setup, with selectors closely monitoring performances in the Indian Premier League.

While Suryakumar has long been a mainstay in India's middle order, his struggles since the T20 World Cup have raised concerns. The stylish batter managed just 177 runs in nine matches during the global tournament, at a strike rate significantly below his career standards. His lean patch has continued into the IPL, with inconsistent scores failing to inspire confidence.

In contrast, Iyer and Patidar have been in impressive form, leading their respective franchises with authority and consistency. Iyer, captaining Punjab Kings, has combined fluent batting with strong leadership, earning praise for both his temperament and tactical acumen. Patidar, at the helm of Royal Challengers Bengaluru, has also delivered impactful performances, helping his side stay among the top contenders this season.

Interestingly, Shubman Gill—India's Test and ODI captain—has not featured prominently in T20 discussions despite being among the leading run-scorers. His role as an opener, compared to the middle-order positions occupied by Iyer and Patidar, appears to have influenced the selection debate. Iyer's advantage lies in his proven international record across formats.

His ability to anchor innings while accelerating when required makes him a strong candidate to replace Suryakumar in the crucial No. 4 slot. Additionally, his leadership credentials—having guided teams deep into IPL campaigns—strengthen his case further.

Jurel eyes consistency over flair ahead of Royals' clash with LSG

LUCKNOW

Dhruv Jurel has emphasised consistency over occasional brilliance as he continues to impress for Rajasthan Royals in the ongoing Indian Premier League.

The 25-year-old wicketkeeper-batter, who pulled off a stunning stumping to dismiss Cameron Green in a recent match against Kolkata Knight Riders, said his focus remains on delivering consistently rather than chasing extraordinary moments.

"I am very hardworking and consistent with my wicketkeeping. I want to be consistent rather than doing something magical," Jurel said, highlighting his approach to the game.

Jurel also expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work under Kumar Sangakkara, the Royals' head coach. He described Sangakkara as a legend whose guidance has been invaluable in shaping his development behind the stumps. The youngster's remarkable stumping earned praise from batting great Sachin Tendulkar, who termed the effort "simply magnificent." Jurel admitted the recognition from such an icon was a dream come true. "It feels special when someone like him appreciates your work," he said.

Looking ahead, Jurel is excited about playing at his home venue, the Ekana Cricket Stadium, where Rajasthan Royals are set to face Lucknow Super Giants. Having grown up playing at the ground, he believes his familiarity with the conditions could benefit his team.

"This is my home ground. I have played here since childhood, so I will try to help my teammates as much as possible," he added.

Meanwhile, Lucknow skipper Aiden Markram is hopeful his side can turn their home venue into a stronghold after suffering consecutive defeats there. He pointed to tactical changes in the batting order, including promoting Ayush Badoni to open, as part of efforts to address inconsistency.

Srikkanth calls Sooryavanshi 'demigod', urges Agarkar to fast-track youngster

NEW DELHI

Former India cricketer Krishnamachari Srikkanth has made a strong case for teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi to be fast-tracked into the national side, even likening his potential rise to that of Sachin Tendulkar.

Srikkanth, a member of India's 1983 World Cup-winning team, described the 15-year-old as a "demigod" in the making and urged chief selector Ajit Agarkar to include him in upcoming international squads. He believes the youngster's fearless approach and natural strokeplay make him ready for higher honours.

"This boy is outstanding. He should be fast-tracked. He doesn't need to be in the playing XI immediately, but being in the squad will help him understand international cricket," Srikkanth said, emphasising early exposure over prolonged grooming.

The former opener pointed to Sooryavanshi's fearless batting against top-quality bowlers as evidence of his rare talent. According to him, the youngster's ability to take on elite pacers without hesitation sets him apart from his peers and marks him as a potential match-winner.

Drawing a parallel with Tendulkar's early debut, Srikkanth recalled leading a 16-year-old Tendulkar during the 1989 tour and how that experience shaped the legend's career. He suggested a similar path could benefit Sooryavanshi, allowing him to grow in confidence and adapt quickly to international demands.

"The earlier you expose such prodigies, the better. That's how champions are built," he added, reinforcing his argument against delaying the youngster's progression.

Sooryavanshi's performances in domestic and franchise cricket have already attracted significant attention, with selectors reportedly keeping him on their radar. He is believed to be among the players shortlisted for India's upcoming tour of Ireland following the conclusion of the Indian Premier League.

City Hilights (English Daily) published by P. Sunil Kumar (Publisher) on behalf of Immaculate Broadcasting Consortium World News (P) Ltd., No. 18, JRV Court, Queens's Road, Bengaluru – 560001 and printed at Manipal Media Network Limited Opp. Govt School, Kempalinganahalli, Near Kunigal Cross, Nelamangala TQ, Bangalore Rural Dist. -562123, Printed at No-7/2 plot no.CA-3/1,28(p)&29(p) Kapanoor 2nd Stage Industrial Area Kapnoor Village Kalaburagi -585104. Printed at S. J. R. V. Printers, No. 208 Plot No. B-019 KSSIDC Industrial Area, Irfan Ahamed Khan Pathan, 4th Main Road Gamanagatti, Hubballi-Dharwad – 580025. and Elegant Offset Printers Pvt. Ltd. No. 5-61/1, Shed No. M-6, Yeyyadi Industrial Estate, Yeyyadi, Mangalore - 575 008. (RNI No: KARENG / 2015 / 63243), Regd. No. BGGPO-2581/2017-2019 Posted at Bengaluru PSO-560026 Email - cityhilights.news@gmail.com Phone: 080-41209042. Copyright. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.